

Allegiance

Building A Foundation Of Loyalty to God

Day 4

Allegiance is a 30 day Bible study devotional to help infuse fresh energy into every Christian man's walk with Christ. It is especially designed to appeal to the motivations of a man's heart and help him channel those desires into allegiance to his Lord.

Dedicated to Brian, Tim, Josh and their future sons

By Gary Yagel

Day 4 Boyhood Dreams

“When all is said and done, I think most men in the church believe that God put them on the earth to be a good boy. The problem with men is that they don’t know how to keep their promises, be spiritual leaders, talk to their wives, or raise their children. But, if they try real hard, they can reach the lofty summit of becoming...a nice guy...Now let me ask my male readers: In all your boyhood dreams growing up, did you ever dream about becoming a Nice Guy?”¹

Men dream about saving the world against impossible odds. We are created for challenge, risk and reward, adventure, action, heroic sacrifice. Those motivations were precisely the masculine drives that Jesus appealed to when calling his disciples. Jesus had no problem attracting men. Fisherman dropped nets full of fish to follow him. Hardened soldiers were awestruck by the power of his presence. Christ’s call to follow him never denies your masculinity. Rather it fulfills it, especially when you understand that to follow Jesus is to enlist in a war between two kingdoms.

Read Matthew 4:17. *From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."*

What reason does Jesus give for repenting?

Read Matthew 4:23. *Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.*

The gospel (good news) is about something. What is it?

The gospel is not just a gospel of personal, private salvation. It is the good news that even though the first Adam lost his kingdom to Satan, sin, disease, and death, the second Adam has come to overthrow those powers and take back Adam’s kingdom for man.

Jesus’ miracles demonstrated far more than the fact that he was God’s Son. By casting out demons, he showed his power over Satan. By healing disease, he showed his power to reverse the curse that came upon man after his sin. By raising Lazarus from the dead, he

demonstrated his power over the consequence of the curse, death. His decisive victory happened in the Garden of Gethsemane where he sweat blood as he wrestled with and surrendered to the will of the Father to go to the cross. His victory over Satan, Sin, and Death at the cross is proved by his resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father, where he now reigns.

Read Luke 11:19-20. *Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.*

What does Jesus say is the significance of his casting out of demons?

Read Mark 4:30-32. *Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."*

What does Jesus teach about the movement of his kingdom?

"There is not a square inch within the domain of our human life of which the Christ, who is the sovereign over all, does not say, 'Mine.'" Abraham Kuyper

Read Matthew 6:33. *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

Think of the word, "kingdom," not as a piece of ground but as a sphere of existence. To "seek first the kingdom of God" is to seek to bring about the rule of Christ in every sphere of life. It is seeking to bring about Christ's righteous standards in the culture through our influence as salt and light, seeking to bring others to surrender to the rule of Christ in their lives by sharing the gospel with them. It means seeking to understand and implement Christ's agenda in your marriage, family, work place, church, neighborhood, etc.

We are called by God to participate in nothing less than His grand plan of redemption for the universe. We are called to follow King Jesus in the conquest of this entire world, spreading His kingdom geographically to the ends of the earth, and spiritually to the very gates of hell itself. Our passion is to see all of life redeemed, across the globe, for His honor and glory.

Our calling is to something a little bigger than being a Nice Guy. Ask your Lord to grab hold of every part of your masculine heart to enflame your passion to show the world the kingdom of Christ and to spread that kingdom throughout planet earth.

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