

KINGDOM COME #2 – THE GREAT COMMISSION

Sermon by Tom Fenske

January 29, 2017

Luke 24:44-49

1. **Euaggelion (Greek)** = _____ or _____ (Matthew 26:13)

The kingdom has _____, the tomb is _____, life is _____.

2. **Martyres (Greek)** = _____ (Luke 24:48)

In His resurrection Jesus inaugurated a new reality where the _____ and _____ are merged.

3. **Pneuma (Greek)** = _____ or _____ (Acts 2:4)

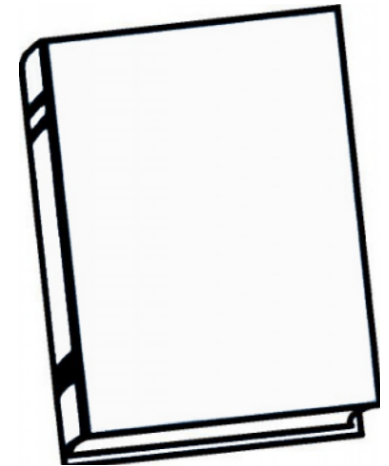
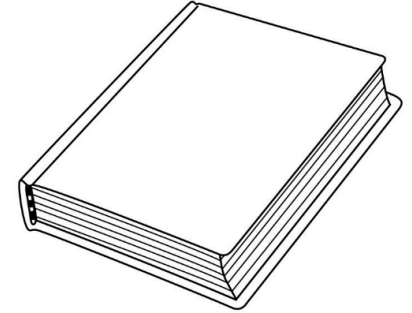
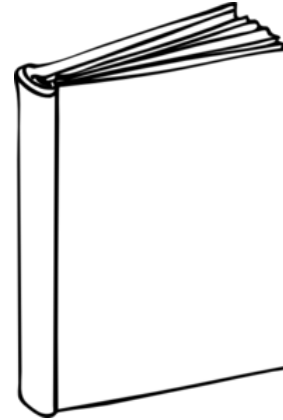
We are _____ called to tell the _____ of the Kingdom Come to those _____ us.

Key Questions:

1. What is your biggest fear in starting a conversation about Jesus with someone?
2. What if you saw your life as a story being told by God rather than just a series of events?
3. What does the story of Jesus mean to you? Where have you witnessed the Gospel impacting your own life?
4. Where is your understanding of the Gospel not big enough? How have you limited God by assuming you know how he works?
5. What if the Holy Spirit will do what Jesus said He would? How do you doubt the Spirit's work in your life?

The Best Story

Tom said that the Great Commission is all about storytelling. Think about the best stories you've ever heard, or read, or told. What makes them so special? Are they moving, surprising, hilarious? Share about one of your favourite stories with the group and tell why you love it.



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Luke 24:44-49

Then he said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’ You are witnesses of all these things.

“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”

1. Euaggelion (Greek) = Gospel or Good News

The kingdom has come, the tomb is empty, life is flourishing.

Matthew 26:13

“I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News (euaggelion) is preached throughout the world, this woman’s deed will be remembered and discussed.”

2. Martyres (Greek) = Witnesses

In His resurrection Jesus inaugurated a new reality where the physical and spiritual are merged.

Luke 24:48

You are witnesses (martyres) of all these things.

3. Pneuma (Greek) = Spirit or breathe

We are all called to tell the story of the Kingdom Come to those around us.

Acts 2:4

And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit (pneuma) and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

KINGDOM COME #1 – THE GREAT COMMISSION

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Icebreaker/Introduction

The 'Best Story' activity flows out of Tom's emphasis on the Great Commission really being about storytelling. Read the instructions together and ask your group to think about some of their favourite stories. They can be a book they've read, a story they've heard or one they've told, or even a movie they've seen that impacted them in some way. Take turns briefly sharing about the story (or the story itself if it's short enough) and why they love it.

Ask if there was anything from this week's message that stood out – either a point that was made which really resonated with them, or perhaps a question or difficulty that came up for them.

Read [Luke 24:44-49](#). In what ways did Tom's teaching on this passage help you see this passage differently?

Tom said that the destiny of Israel was to bring hope and healing to the world. Do you think they have? In what ways has the church brought hope and healing?

Tom reminded us that the kingdom of God is a movement of His people and is really 'everything we do.' What do you think he meant by this?

1. Euaggelion (Greek) = Gospel or Good News ([Matthew 26:13](#)) [note: Tom didn't use this Greek word in his message]

The kingdom has come, the tomb is empty, life is flourishing.

What are some traditional ways of explaining the 'good news'? How are they different from Tom's explanation that 'the kingdom has come, the tomb is empty, life is flourishing'? Is an emphasis on sin helpful in trying to explain the gospel to modern listeners? Do you think the message of the kingdom of God is more engaging to young people?

Discuss Tom's statement that 'the kingdom is not just about what we do at church on Sunday, or in our private lives, or when we pray, sing or study the Bible, but it's actually about how we live and breath in the world God created.'

What are some practical ways in which we can bring peace/shalom/wholeness to the people around us?

2. Martyres (Greek) = Witnesses ([Luke 24:48](#))

In His resurrection Jesus inaugurated a new reality where the physical and spiritual are merged.

How does Jesus sharing of bread and wine help give us an understanding of what His kingdom is like? (another example of merging the physical and spiritual) Are you a fan of potlucks? Does Tom's explanation of the deeper meaning of these kinds of events resonate with you?

Tom explained that the men on the road to Emmaus were disappointed because they had been looking for salvation in a political power structure. Do people still have a tendency to look to politics or government for solutions? What should be a Christian's role in politics/government?

Tom pointed out that Jesus' final instruction to His disciples was not to keep pure or follow rules, but to tell the (eyewitness) story. Yet part of the story is the message: "There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent." ([Luke 24:47](#)). How can we reconcile these ideas?

3. Pneuma (Greek) = Spirit or breathe ([Acts 2:4](#))

We are all called to tell the story of the Kingdom Come to those around us.

Discuss Tom's statement that 'any gospel that does not start with how deeply valued and loved you are by God is not the gospel of Jesus.'

Tom asked us these questions: Where have you seen death and resurrection in your own life?

Where has God been at work in changing who you are?

Tom emphasized that we can't witness to what we're not experiencing. Are you living an abundant life? Does God play an important role in your life? Are you thankful? How does the faith you're living out impact on your ability to talk about following Jesus?

Tom said that 'telling the story isn't optional.' Do you feel equipped to tell the story? When have you shared the gospel with others? Is it valuable to point people to the written accounts ('gospels') about Jesus?

What are some examples of outdated language and concepts which Tom pointed out we have often used, but that don't really speak to our changing culture.?

Questions from Tom:

1. What is your biggest fear in starting a conversation about Jesus with someone?
2. What if you saw your life as a story being told by God rather than just a series of events?
3. What does the story of Jesus mean to you? Where have you witnessed the Gospel impacting your own life?
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