

Discerning Where the Kingdom of God is Present

Matthew 12:22-50

Sermon Discussion Questions

May 7, 2023

In this sermon, four signs were identified that show the presence of the Kingdom in a church or organization: 1) Spiritual power as opposed to merely cleaned up lives; 2) the good fruit of gathering rather than empty, unproductive words; 3) Repentance as opposed to unresponsiveness; 4) prioritizing those who do God's will over any favoritism. Keep these in mind as you read through and answer these questions.

1. As one member of many that make up the body of Christ, what is our role as an individual to show these signs to new people? Which of the four signs of the Kingdom do you need to personally grow in most? Which sign do you think Calvary needs to grow in?
2. Do you think people in the church prioritize clean lives or the Spirit's power? Would you feel more comfortable worshipping next to a clean life person or a former drug addict who has been freed by the Spirit's power? What would churches look like if they prioritized life change in the power of the Spirit over life cleaning in the power of man?
3. Have you ever not followed through to pray for someone, to get coffee with someone, start an accountability group or bible study, to bring a friend to church? Thinking about empty words, what do you think is conveyed about the kingdom of God when we don't follow through? How do empty words affect our relationship with others? With God? The other person's relationship with the church?
4. How do you wish people would respond when you confront them with their sins? What has been your response when others have come to you in love with your sins? Are you prone to defensiveness or open to repentance? How can you confront others with grace and love?
5. In your mind, what are some of the tell-tale signs of favoritism? Have you experienced being on either the receiving end of favoritism or discrimination? Can you share these experiences and explain how it made you feel? How does favoritism and discrimination differ from how God created humanity?
6. Are you willing to look for the signs above in organizations you support or are a part of? Are there any organizations you support or are a part of you would not want to test because you know they would fail?