



Welcome to Unity's Interactive Worship Service

Today's Topic: The Kingdom

Power Point notes available at:

www.unityofbakersfield.org

The Kingdom



Today's Daily Word reminded us that: *Choice by choice, we bring into awareness a dimension of consciousness that Jesus describes as the kingdom of heaven.*

The Kingdom



When asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God will not come with observable signs. Nor will the people say, "Look, here it is." For the kingdom is within you. (Luke 20:21)

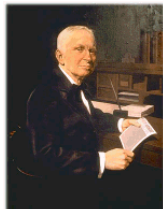
The Kingdom

Jesus's understanding of the kingdom can be summed up in the following:

The Kingdom of God is within your consciousness. It is the place centered on God's love. The Kingdom of God is where the bond of God's love is made, established and harmonized with the essence of God's love.

And he said: Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matt 18:3)

The Kingdom



Unity Co-founder, Charles Fillmore stated: Had the kingdom, to which Jesus so often referred, been a city with golden streets in the skies, He could easily have located it; but He did not do so. On the contrary, He again and again gave illustrations to show His listeners that it was a desirable condition, which would be brought about among them through the power of Spirit.

The Kingdom



In today's Daily Word we also find this insight to becoming aware of the kingdom of heaven within us:

Awake and aware, we find our lives filled with opportunities to accomplish our spiritual purpose.

The Kingdom



In a way, The Wizard of OZ speaks to that very topic of awareness.

The Scarecrow wants a brain.

The Lion wants courage.

The Tin man wants a heart.

And Dorothy just wanted to go home.

The Kingdom



We have been given the key for entering the kingdom of heaven. And the key is nothing more than making room for God in our lives, and by allowing the activity of awareness to be a part of our everyday experience.

The Kingdom

David's Story:

While teaching at our local Community College, I befriended a young man wanting to change his life and start something new.

One day I got a call informing me that David had an accident while driving to one of his accounts and was in the hospital. He was pretty banged up but would be okay. A week later after he was able to get around we went to the towing company and looked at this truck.

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As we stood there I couldn't help but think, God, David, you're lucky to be alive. "Yea," he responded. "It was like I was in slow motion as I saw this tractor trailer coming straight at me, I had no place to go, nothing to do but just sit there and wait for the crash to come. Strange as it was, I wasn't scared. Something inside of me told me I would be okay."

It was about a month later I saw him eating at a local restaurant.

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I noticed that across from him was a place setting as if he was waiting for someone to join him for lunch. I walked over and asked how he was doing. He said, "Great." I then asked if someone was joining him and he said, "He's already here." As I looked at him kinda funny he told me to sit down.

He said. "After the accident I became aware of how much I have wasted my life. That there had to be more I could be doing to make things better, not only for me but for everyone around me."

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And since then I have developed this relationship with God. I talk with Him about everything. He rides in my truck wherever I go. He's with me on my walks on the beach and when I'm out eating alone, I'll get a table for two, like the one you see here. I can't really explain it, and you may not want anything to do with me, but I'm not crazy. I have become aware of this presence and I can't go back to who I once was. That accident was the best thing that ever happened to me.

The Kingdom



David experienced what it was like to feel the awareness of the kingdom of God within him.

The Kingdom

Each of us has the ability and opportunity to experience the kingdom of God within us. We, like the Lion in Oz already have the courage to persevere and make the changes that we know we need to make, and;

Like the Scarecrow, we can use our connection to divine mind so that we make the right and perfect decisions that are for the highest and best of all concerned, and;

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Like the Tin Man, we can allow the love that is within us to radiate outward in all directions to touch those that need to know that they are loved.

