

Kingdom & Passion

Key Verse

Ephesians 3:20 - Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, (NIV)

Opening Questions

What comes to mind when you hear the word passion?

Exploring the Bible

I. In the Beginning

Genesis 2:8 - Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.

Question: What did God create for His newly created man?

Answer:

Question: What was the garden filled with?

Answer:

Man is created and placed in a garden paradise. He can thrive because everything he needs is provided for him in abundance. He has a personal relationship with his creator. He has been commissioned to rule over God's creation. Man was bringing glory to God by being and doing exactly what God had created him to do.

Genesis 3:22-24 - Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Question: What happened to Adam and Eve (verse 23)?

Answer:

Question: What was placed on the east side of the garden (verse 24)?

Answer:

When man fell into sin, he lost his relationship with God and he was banished from the garden. Now he would have to work hard to make a living rather than being free to be what God created him to be. Man is separated from God and living as a member of the kingdom of darkness. Man went from glorifying God with his life to trying to survive.

II. Missing the Target

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (NIV)

Question: What two things has everyone done?

Answer:

“Falling short” literally means “to miss the mark.”

What does it mean to fall short of God's glory?

The pinnacle of God's creation was man made in the image of God. Man was created by God to rule and reign in a cooperative effort with God. God would give different talents and abilities to each person so that His creation could be ruled effectively.

When man fell into sin, he no longer had fellowship with God nor could he rule and reign as he was designed to do. He now was falling short of God's glory, that is, man was falling short of the purpose for which man was created, and therefore God's glory could not be revealed through man.

How do we begin to measure up to God's glory?

When we are born again, we are restored to fellowship with our Heavenly Father. All the gifts, talents, and abilities He gave us now can be used to accomplish what we were made to do here on this earth. That is the beginning of our destiny. The fulfilling of our destiny brings glory to God and brings us an abundant life. But we must always

remember that our destiny is eternal. We begin our journey into our destiny here, but we will see it's complete fulfillment in eternity.

III. Abundant Life

John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Question: What does the thief do?

Answer:

Question: What does Jesus give?

Answer:

What is abundant life? A lot of people talk about it, but what does it mean? An abundant life is one that is lived with passion and filled with the presence and goodness of God. It is impossible to live an abundant life if we are living a ho-hum existence, unaware of what our life's passion is or having that passion suppressed by people or circumstances. God puts something inside each of us that ignites our passion when we think about it, dream about it, or do it. The Kingdom of God calls us to discover that passion, then ignites that passion with eternal destiny and God's love giving us an abundant life.

IV. Pursuing God's Kingdom

Matt 6:33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (NIV)

Question: What do we need to seek before anything else?

Answer:

How do I seek God's Kingdom?

Seeking God's Kingdom is not a bunch of religious activities that we start doing when we are saved. We have been given a set of gifts and talents with the purpose of carrying out specific assignments for the Kingdom of God. All of this is reflected in the things that produce a passion in our hearts. When we begin to pursue the passion of our heart with a vision to impact this world for the Kingdom of God, then we are seeking God's Kingdom.

Ephesians 3:20 - Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, (NIV)

Question: God is able to do immeasurably more than what?

Answer:

No matter how big our dreams and passions are for the Kingdom of God, His plans for us are so much bigger than we can ever imagine. It is knowing that we can never out dream or imagine God that is a big part of living an abundant life.

Practical Exercise

How do you begin to find your passion? There is an exercise you can do that can help you identify what your passion is. Make a list of the things that you love or enjoy doing. You might have about 7-10 items on your list. Now, go through each of the items on the list and make the declaration:

"I'm living my passion by _____." Fill in the blank with each one of the items on your list. You should begin to see which item or items on the list really resonate as you make that statement. It is the item that resonates that probably is the passion that God has placed within you for the Kingdom.