FOR THE KINGDOM

THE KING IS HERE*: Kingdom Priority and Mission*

Kensington Temple London City Church

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THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How do we make the Kingdom of God the priority in everything we are and everything we do?

KEY SCRIPTURES Mark 1:14–15 • Matthew 6:33 • Colossians 3:23–24 • 2 Timothy 2:14–26

A Conference Begins, but a Kingdom Comes

We have not gathered simply to generate enthusiasm, hear exceptional preaching or experience powerful worship. We are asking whether Jesus Christ will gain a greater claim upon our lives, our church and our future. The Kingdom of God is God's sovereign, saving and transforming reign: inaugurated in Jesus, made present through the Holy Spirit and destined to be revealed in fullness.

The earliest Christian confession was not merely "Jesus helps me", but "Jesus is Lord". If Jesus is Lord, no ruler, system, ideology, appetite, failure or fear may claim final authority over us. George Jeffreys would sometimes interrupt proceedings: "Just a minute! The Master is here!" This conference begins with that same invitation: stop, recognise God's presence and turn your gaze towards Jesus.

Four Movements of Kingdom Priority

1	**BEHOLD THE KING** The Kingdom comes because the King has come. Before strategy or leadership, we look again to the crucified, risen and reigning Jesus.
2	**SEEK HIS REIGN** "First" confronts divided allegiance. God's reign becomes the organising reality of life, work, relationships, money and leadership.
3	**BECOME USEFUL** The decisive question is not whether we impress an audience, but whether we are clean, formed and ready for every good work.

4

ACCEPT HIS MISSION

Kingdom vision becomes public, practical and Spirit-empowered witness in London, every vocation and the nations.

1. We Behold the King

MARK 1:15

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Mark introduces Jesus against a background of political oppression and prophetic suffering. John has been arrested, Herod appears secure and Rome occupies the land. Into this contested landscape Jesus announces that God has acted. He seeks neither Herod's permission nor Rome's endorsement. Heaven's authority has entered earth's broken territory.

The Kingdom Becomes Visible

FORGIVENESS	**SINNERS ARE RESTORED** Every act of forgiveness declares that sin's dominion is being broken.
HEALING	**THE SICK ARE MADE WHOLE** Every healing declares that illness will not have the final word.
DELIVERANCE	**EVIL MEETS GREATER AUTHORITY** Every liberation announces that the powers of darkness have encountered the King.
WELCOME	**THE EXCLUDED ARE RECEIVED** Jesus restores dignity and forms a community across ethnicity, class and social status.

These are not isolated acts of kindness. They are signs that the rightful King has entered occupied territory and living prophecies of the creation God intends to renew.

The Crucified and Risen King

Jesus establishes his throne neither by coercion nor violence, but through the cross. At Calvary, political power, religious corruption, human violence and spiritual evil converge against the Son of God. Yet the cross is not the defeat of the Kingdom. It is the enthronement of the crucified King, who bears sin and reveals divine power as holy, self-giving love.

The resurrection is the Father's vindication of the Son and the beginning of new creation. The risen Christ ascends, is exalted at the Father's right hand and pours out the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost, the King forms a prophetic and missionary people from many nations, languages and cultures.

OUR IDENTITY

We are diverse because the Kingdom gathers every nation. We are Spirit-filled because the exalted Christ pours out his Spirit. We are missionary because the gospel of the Kingdom must be carried from London to the world.

Before we develop strategies, we behold Jesus. Before we exercise leadership, we submit to his authority. The Church does not create the Kingdom; it receives the Kingdom, serves its purposes and bears witness to its King.

2. We Seek His Reign

MATTHEW 6:33

"Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness."

The word "first" confronts every divided allegiance. Jesus is not adding another spiritual activity to an already crowded life. He summons us into a new order of existence in which God's reign becomes the organising reality of everything we are and do.

Let God's Future Govern the Present

RECONCILED	**PRACTISE RECONCILIATION NOW** Because God's future is reconciled, we cross divisions and repair relationships.
RIGHTEOUS	**RESIST CORRUPTION NOW** Because the Kingdom is righteous, integrity outranks convenience and gain.
MULTI-ETHNIC	**REJECT SUPERIORITY NOW** Because every nation gathers before the throne, we reject racism, tribalism and cultural pride.
LAMB-SHAPED	**LEAD WITHOUT DOMINATION** Because the slain Lamb reigns, authority is expressed through service, truth and self-giving love.
FLOURISHING	**SEEK THE COMMON GOOD** Because creation will be renewed, we pursue the dignity, wellbeing and good of our neighbours now.

Kingdom Vocation

"Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord … you serve the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:23–24). "Whatever" removes the artificial division between sacred and secular. Teaching, nursing, parenting, business, government, science, law, technology, the arts and practical service may all become holy vocation when offered to Christ and directed towards the good of others.

THE WORKPLACE IS A MISSION FIELD

Your profession is not simply a way to finance your "real" ministry. It may be one of the most public and consequential expressions of your Kingdom calling.

Kingdom vocation asks more than whether I am personally honest. What does my work produce in the lives of others? Does my leadership contribute to human flourishing? Are people treated as bearers of God's image or merely as resources? Does the institution serve the common good or only the powerful?

The decisive question is not simply, "What is my vision?" It is, "Did my vision come from the King, and does it serve his purpose?"

3. We Become Useful to the Master

2 TIMOTHY 2:21

"Dedicated and useful to the owner of the house, ready for every good work."

Paul addresses a young leader amid false teaching, destructive arguments and spiritual confusion. He does not begin with influence, visibility or platform. He teaches Timothy to guard his life, handle truth faithfully and become useful to the Master. We are vessels within God's house, not its owners.

Gift and Character Must Remain Together

TALENT	**MAY GATHER A CROWD** Character is required to carry sustained spiritual responsibility.
CHARISMA	**MAY OPEN A DOOR** Holiness determines what we do when we enter it.
VISION	**MAY NAME A DESTINATION** Humility determines whether others flourish on the journey.
PROPHECY	**MAY COMMAND ATTENTION** Truth, courage, compassion and costly obedience authenticate the voice.

Flee and Pursue

Paul tells Timothy both to flee and to pursue. Kingdom leaders flee corrupt desire, fruitless controversy, manipulation, hidden compromise and the use of people as instruments of ambition. They pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace.

DIVERSITY REQUIRES FORMATION

A hyper-diverse church becomes a sign of the Kingdom when leaders listen across difference, reject cultural superiority, recognise emerging gifts, build across generations and distinguish the gospel from personal preference.

Cells as Missionary Communities

Cells must be more than groups that preserve existing relationships. They are missionary communities where people are known, disciples are formed, leaders emerge, burdens are carried, neighbours are reached and pastoral care becomes the ministry of the whole body.

If our vision is from God, it will create mission. If our mission is from God, it will form disciples. If our discipleship is genuine, it will produce mature, holy and courageous leaders.

4. We Accept His Mission

PENTECOSTAL POWER IS MISSIONAL POWER

Power to proclaim Christ, cross boundaries, confront evil, heal broken lives, endure suffering, speak prophetically and build communities of reconciliation.

The Holy Spirit was not poured out merely to intensify church meetings. The Spirit came to make the Church faithful to the mission of Jesus. London is not simply where Kensington Temple is located; it is part of our assignment: a global, culturally rich and influential city, yet also marked by loneliness, inequality, spiritual hunger and social fragmentation.

Word, Spirit and Public Witness Belong Together

PROCLAIM	**CALL PEOPLE TO CHRIST** We preach salvation, repentance, forgiveness and the lordship of Jesus.
HEAL	**CARE FOR THE WHOLE PERSON** We pray for healing, carry burdens and respond to embodied suffering.
LIBERATE	**CONFRONT OPPRESSION** We resist exploitation, spiritual bondage and everything that diminishes dignity.
RECONCILE	**BUILD A NEW COMMUNITY** We welcome strangers, strengthen families and cross social and cultural boundaries.
SEEK JUSTICE	**SERVE THE COMMON GOOD** We speak prophetically to institutions and seek the flourishing of communities.

The Kingdom refuses a separation between evangelism and social responsibility. We preach for conversion and work for transformation. We care for souls and seek the flourishing of communities. We call individuals to repentance and speak prophetically to institutions.

A Vision Worth Carrying

A Church that refuses confinement within a building. Disciples who gather for worship and scatter as witnesses. Cells that become spiritual greenhouses. Churches planted across communities. London encountering the living Christ. Missionaries carrying the gospel to the nations. Every culture, generation and vocation bringing its gifts to the body of Christ.

THIS GENERATION MUST OBEY

We honour our inheritance, but the next season cannot be carried by yesterday's obedience. The biblical foundations must remain firm, the gospel central and the Pentecostal fire holy, while our obedience addresses the world in which God has placed us now.

The King is not seeking religious admirers. He is forming faithful witnesses.

GOING DEEPER: Four Reflection Questions

Use these questions in a cell, leadership team or discipleship partnership. Share honestly, listen without rushing to fix, and finish with one accountable step of obedience.

1	**BEHOLD THE KING** Where have disappointment, fear, cultural pressure or personal ambition shaped my vision more than the crucified, risen and reigning Christ?

Notes: _____

2	**SEEK HIS REIGN** What area of my life, vocation, relationships, finances or leadership have I asked Jesus to bless without first bringing it fully under his authority?

Notes: _____

3	**BECOME USEFUL** What must I flee, confess, heal or cultivate so that my character can carry the gifts, influence and responsibility God has entrusted to me?

Notes: _____

4	**ACCEPT HIS MISSION** What specific person, community, workplace or sphere of society is the Holy Spirit calling me to serve as a faithful witness to the Kingdom of God?

Notes: _____

A Simple Rule of Kingdom Priority

- Behold Jesus before building strategy.
- Submit every sphere of life to his reign.
- Guard character so gifting can be carried faithfully.
- Name one concrete act of missional obedience.
- Invite your community to pray, ask and walk with you.

Prayer of Commitment

KING JESUS

Lord Jesus, reorder my life, cleanse the vessel, renew the vision and send me into your mission. Let my vocation become worship, my influence become stewardship, my leadership reflect the cross and my life bear witness to your Kingdom. Give me holiness that lends credibility to proclamation, love that gives substance to theology, unity that displays reconciliation and courage that makes the gospel publicly visible. Holy Spirit, form Jesus in us and send us as faithful witnesses. Amen.

READ BEFORE THE GROUP: Mark 1:14–15 • Matthew 6:33 • Colossians 3:23–24 • 2 Timothy 2:14–26