

## Kingdom People

By Santiago Lange

Life's experiences are important for all of us. If we are smart, we learn from our mistakes.

If we truly want to be Kingdom People, that is, Christ's Ambassadors, then we would do well to remember three pieces of wise advice.



Being Kingdom people means being in right relationship with God  
Being Kingdom people means being available to serve, and  
Being Kingdom people means participating in His mission to the world.

Christians allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in their lives. They are not perfect and don't pretend to be perfect. They are honest about their mistakes and are willing to repent of those faults. They desire God to bring a transformation in their lives to make them the people He desires them to be.

Jesus gave His disciples some very sound counsel in Matthew 5:13. He said, *"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men"*.

Going back to Jesus' time salt was highly valued and was connected in people's minds with a number of valuable qualities, one of which was purity. I guess it was the glistening white color of the salt that brought purity to mind. Jesus said, *"Be like salt and don't lose your saltiness. If you do then your worth for the Kingdom is diminished"*.

One of the characteristics of the world in which we live today is the lowering of standards, we see this all the time. Standards of honesty have been lowered, as have the standards of morality and ethical values. Sadly, some Christians in our churches today have been sucked into the compromising of standards. If so, they have lost saltiness and effectiveness for the Kingdom of God. Christians are called to rise above these decreasing standards and live by the principles God desires for us to live by.

Here are some principles spoken about in the Bible we are to live by if we desire to maintain our saltiness:

*Matt. 6:25-33 tells us not to worry about life. We are to seek the purposes of the Kingdom first, and God has promised to take care of our physical needs.*

*Matt. 18:1-4 tells us that if we desire greatness in the Kingdom of God, then we need to be teachable and humble ourselves as little children.*

*Luke 9:24 tells us that if someone (or a church) tries to save his or her spiritual life and vitality by keeping things to themselves, he will lose it. If people are willing to give themselves away for the sake of others, they will find the fullness and abundance of life as God intended it to be.*

If we want to be Kingdom People, then our lives need to be in right relationship with God, and that means being the 'salt of the earth'.

For us to be Kingdom People, it also requires us being available to serve. When God gives us (or our church), resources, people, or assignments to develop and use for the Kingdom, He expects faithful stewardship. Christians are involved in God's mission to reach people for Jesus Christ and to let them know about the wonderful Gospel message. Jesus said that Christians don't hide their light but display it to the world.

*"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)*

When we respond to God's invitation to an intimate relationship with Him, He brings us into a partnership with Himself. Blackaby and King, the authors of *Experiencing God* write, *"The Spirit that bonds you to other believers in a local church also bonds you to ALL believers. God's people from every local body of Christ are part of God's Kingdom. Christians are kingdom people, and Christ Himself is the eternal King over His Kingdom."* Being in relationship with Christ and being involved in His mission goes hand in hand.

The beautiful thing about the Body of Christ is that any time God has access to His people, He can touch the world through a local congregation. God can touch the world through you and me. God speaks to us through the Holy Spirit. He reveals to us Himself, His purposes and His ways. Our function is to accomplish God's purposes in Kingdom ways.

If we truly desire to be Kingdom People, then we need to focus on three things:

That our lives are in alignment with God, as salt of the earth,

That we are all available to serve, and

That we are participating in God's mission to the world reflecting the light of Jesus. □