

Day 1: A Tale of Two Kingdoms

Scripture: “*When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.*” — Matthew 2:3

The Word: Why on earth would a King be "troubled" by the news of a baby? Because Herod understood something we often forget: There cannot be two kings on one throne. Herod was obsessed with his own kingdom—his power, his control, his legacy. The arrival of Jesus wasn't just a "spiritual" event; it was a threat to the established order of the world.

We look at Herod and see a villain, but if we are honest, we have a little Herod in us, too. We build our own little kingdoms—our social media influence, our reputation, our career paths, our comfort. When Jesus comes in and demands *all* authority, the part of us that wants to remain king gets troubled. To be dangerous to the kingdom of this world, you first have to abdicate the throne of your own life.

The Charge: Identify one area of your life where you are fighting for control (finances, your children's future, your reputation). Surrender that specific "kingdom" to Jesus today.

Prayer: *Father, forgive me for building my own kingdom while claiming to serve Yours. I step off the throne today. You are the King. Rule in my heart so I can represent You to the world.*
Amen.

Day 2: Consumer or Warrior?

Scripture: *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness...”* — Ephesians 6:12

The Word: The religious leaders of Jesus' day (the scribes and Pharisees) knew the Scriptures, but they loved their comfort more than the Messiah. They had turned the worship of God into a business, a way to gain power and money. They became consumers of religion rather than warriors for God.

God did not call us to be consumers. He didn't save you just so you could sit in a chair on Sunday morning, listen to a sermon, and go home unchanged. That is a safe, comfortable, and ineffective Christianity. We are in a war. The "kingdom of this world" is active—corruption, addiction, despair, and confusion are rampant. If the enemy isn't worried about you, it's probably because you aren't doing anything to threaten his territory.

The Charge: Stop asking "What did I get out of church?" and start asking "How was I equipped for the battle?" Do not be a spectator this week.

Prayer: *Lord, wake me up. I don't want to be a fat, lazy Christian who just consumes content. Equip me for the battle. Give me the eyes to see the spiritual war around me and the courage to engage in it. Amen.*

Day 3: The Invasion

Scripture: *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."* — Ephesians 2:10

The Word: If the entire point of salvation was just "going to heaven when you die," then why are you still here? Why didn't God just beam you up the moment you said "Amen"?

You are still here because this is a divine invasion. God has left you behind enemy lines to be an ambassador of His Kingdom. As mentioned in the sermon, dead people don't choose to get up. Jesus raised us from the dead so we could walk in "good works." We are the plan. We are the light. The reason the world is so dark is often because the church is hiding its light under the basket of "safety."

The Charge: You were created for a specific good work *today*. It might be a conversation, an act of service, or a moment of generosity. Keep your head on a swivel and look for the work God prepared for you.

Prayer: *God, thank You for saving me. Show me why You left me here. Show me the good works You have prepared for me today, and give me the strength to walk in them. Amen.*

Day 4: Into the Darkness

Scripture: “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’” — John 8:12

The Word: You don't need a flashlight at noon on a sunny day. Light is only useful when it goes into the dark. Yet, as Christians, we tend to huddle together in the "light" of our church buildings and complain about how dark the world is getting.

To be dangerous, you have to be willing to enter the darkness. You have to be willing to enter someone else's struggle. It's messy. It's awkward. It's uncomfortable. But that is where the battle is won. Whether it's taking someone fishing, inviting a neighbor to a BBQ, or just sitting with someone who is grieving—you cannot make a difference from a distance.

The Charge: "Enter the struggle" today. Reach out to someone you know is having a hard time. Don't offer a cliché; offer your presence.

Prayer: *Lord, I confess I love comfort. But You called me to be light. Send me to someone who is in the dark today. Use me to bring hope to a hopeless situation. Amen.*

Day 5: Better to Try and Fail

Scripture: *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* — James 1:22

The Word: We often suffer from "paralysis by analysis." We want to know exactly the right thing to say, the perfect theology, and the perfect method before we share Jesus with anyone. But a soldier who studies the manual but never fires a shot is useless in battle.

The sermon challenged us with this: *It is better to try and fail than to not try at all.* God can use your clumsy attempt at a Gospel conversation. He can use your awkward invitation to church. He cannot use your silence. The Ruler of this World isn't scared of your intentions; he is scared of your actions.

The Charge: Complete the mission: Have one Gospel conversation, invite one person to the next event (the BBQ!), or share a resource with a neighbor. Do something dangerous today.

Prayer: *Father, give me boldness. I'm done waiting for the perfect moment. I want to be a doer of Your Word. I pray that because of my obedience today, the kingdom of darkness trembles. Use me for Your glory. Amen.*