

Sermon Guide: Rediscovering the Good News of Jesus: “The Evangel and Evangelism” Petra Anderson | Jan. 28

Petra Anderson delivered a message focused on the essence of the Gospel and its implications for evangelism. The central theme was the recognition of Jesus not merely as a savior but as the reigning King and resurrected Messiah. This perspective shifts the central message from individual salvation to the broader, transformative work of God's kingdom on earth which includes individual salvation. Petra urged believers to develop "kingdom eyes" to see beyond themselves, to embrace the larger narrative, the ongoing work of Jesus Messiah restoring the world.

Petra then discussed that by doing so, believers become disciples who invite others to join them in following Jesus and participating in the kingdom of God. This invitation to "come and see" should lead others to experience Jesus, to get to know him, through a community of people who live under his gracious, sacrificial and saving authority, different from any other authority or power the world knows, providing hope and courage in the face of evil and darkness.

This lived-out message is crucial because it reflects the reality of Jesus' kingship and his ongoing work in the world. However, Petra pointed out that the church often fails to embody this message, leading to a perception of Christians as hypocritical and judgmental. This misalignment between the church's message and actions has resulted in people leaving the faith, seeking authenticity and inclusivity that they do not find within the church.

The message concluded with a call to live out the good news that Jesus is King, which gives him the power to save. Believers are encouraged to surrender to Jesus as King for all their needs, trusting that his kingdom is near and that he is actively working to redeem the world and invite others to come and see.

Key Takeaways:

- Recognizing Jesus as King rather than merely a savior shifts the focus from individual salvation to the comprehensive restoration of God's kingdom on earth. This understanding calls for a life of discipleship and active participation in Jesus' transformative work, which includes all aspects of creation. [\[01:43\]](#)
- The perception of Christians as hypocritical and judgmental is a significant barrier to effective evangelism. To counter this, believers must embody the message of Jesus' kingship through authentic, inclusive, and transformative community engagement, reflecting the love and grace of Jesus in their actions. [\[19:40\]](#)

- Evangelism should be rooted in the narrative of God's kingdom, inviting others to witness the integrity and authority of Jesus as King in the lives of his followers. This approach emphasizes the relational aspect of faith, where witnessing Jesus' work in the community becomes a powerful testament to his lordship. [07:05]

- The transformative power of the Gospel is not limited to personal salvation but extends to the redemption of the entire world. Believers are called to develop "kingdom eyes" to recognize and participate in Jesus' redemptive work, which is an ongoing process rather than a one-time event. [09:03]

- Living under the authority of Jesus as King requires a posture of surrender and obedience, deep and open-hearted listening to him. This surrender leads to a life that reflects Jesus' character and mission, offering hope and demonstrating the reality of God's kingdom advancing in the world. [12:32]

Bible Reading:

1. Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

2. Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

3. Colossians 1:15-20 (NIV)

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. **17** He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. **19** For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Matthew 6:33 in context and discuss what seeking the kingdom of God first actually might look like in our everyday lives today. What is it that Jesus wants people to see that would draw them to the kingdom of God with him as king?
2. Pondering Matthew 28:18-20, how is the charge to make disciples different from making converts?
3. If we want to live out the gospel message with Jesus our King at the center for people to come and see, ponder and discuss the words "teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." in Matthew 28:20?
4. What stands out to you in particular in the Colossians passage? As you reflect on that, what invitation might Jesus have for you that might change how you share the gospel message?

Going Deeper:

1. Think about where it is difficult to seek the Kingdom of God first in your life? What gets in the way?
2. How does the authority of Jesus as described in Matthew actually impact you as a believer as you approach making disciples and teaching them? Or does it?
3. What difference does it make to know that Christ is holding everything together when you are facing darkness, brokenness and difficulties? How do you allow Jesus into your struggle when you doubt he is in fact holding it all together? How could all of this be a witness for the kingdom of God near?
4. Consider a community you are part of that is experiencing brokenness. What is one tangible way Jesus might be calling you to contribute to its restoration in the light of the kingdom of God at work?