

People of the King

1 Peter 2:9 – 12

I. Intro

- A. Back to topic from several weeks ago – the Kingdom of God, or Kingdom of Heaven
- B. Jesus spoke a lot about topic, many times using parables (stories) to give illustration ... *the kingdom of God is like or the kingdom of heaven is like*
- C. Saw kingdom of God is referred to all through scripture – several weeks ago saw this from book of Genesis, from the beginning, through Abraham's call, God building a nation of people chosen specifically by Him, building foundation ultimately for God's eternal kingdom
- D. Saw the make-up, characteristic, of this kingdom is people who are called out, people who will go (in obedience to God's call), and people who are blessed to bless
- E. Today, look more detail about people belonging to God's kingdom or kingdom of heaven
- F. **Illustration:** The statement made when someone is being accused of a mistake or some type of error – *What do you expect, I'm only human.* Young boy who got in argument with his mom and older brother. In the course of the argument, statement was made, and struck this young boy as wrong, out of place. In response, the young boy pointing out their misstatement said, "*We are NOT only human!*", to which they replied, "*Well what do you think we are? Aliens? Magicians? Superheros? We are too only human.*" Then, the answer the young boy gave was, "*We are NOT only human – we're children of God, and we should never be satisfied with less, we should never live as less, we should never look at ourselves as anything less.*"
- G. That is what those of us who are believers, followers of Jesus Christ, who have surrendered their heart and life to Him as Lord and Savior, that is exactly what we are – we are people of the King of the Kingdom of God
- H. **2 Corinthians 6:18 (NIV)**
18 "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."
- I. **Galatians 4:4-7 (NIV)**
4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,
5 to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. 6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."
7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.
- J. **Ephesians 1:4-5 (NIV)**

4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--

K. **One thing about VBS this week – coming to us will be several hundred boys/girls, young people, and adults who potentially could become adopted, children of God this week by hearing, believing, and receiving the message of the Gospel; whole, sole purpose why we do VBS**

L. **READ 1 Peter 2:9 – 12; look at who God says the people of His kingdom actually are**

M. **People of God’s Kingdom are:**

II. **1 – Chosen**

A. **v. 9: ... *you are chosen* – talking not about individual people, it’s “you” in the collective sense; southern translation would be “y’all”; means “us” we collectively as body of Christ have been chosen**

B. ***chosen* (Gr.) - a significant preference; strongly favorable attitude**

C. **So, God, the awesome, Almighty, all-powerful King has “significant preference”, a strong favorable attitude towards US – US as a collective body; God is excited about US**

D. **God chose US, assembled US, brought US together and He is pretty dadgum happy about it**

E. **Of course, we’re not perfect, many ways far from it – we still have a lot of growing to do, many things to learn and change, but none of that changes the fact that God has chosen US and given US a place in His kingdom**

III. **2 – Royal Priesthood**

A. **v. 9: God calls we, US, royal priests; can be little hard to grasp**

B. **Two parts to this:**

i. **First, we are “royalty” because we are children adopted by the King; when we come before God, don’t have to sneak in, don’t have to come in through back door, don’t have to make an appointment, don’t have to go through some level of bureaucracy – we can walk straight into His inner chamber, His presence – and because we are His children, He smiles and welcomes US in**

ii. **Second, we are “priests” because we stand in God’s presence and we communicate (interact) with Him, present our prayers (requests) directly to Him; we offer our sacrifice of worship, praise, service to Him (v. 9b) – and God inhabits the praise of His chosen people, inhabits the praise of US**

IV. **3 - Holy Nation**

A. **Not a “political” nation, a “holy” nation**

- B. We are a chosen people, people of royalty, people of priests that have been “set apart” for God our Father, exclusively for Him, and not contaminated by anything else
- C. **v. 9:** ... *people belonging to God*; another way of saying this, we are God’s personal, chosen, treasured possession
- D. **Paraphrase:** 1 Peter 2:9 (MSG)
9 ... God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for [US]—

V. Kingdom of People – People of the King

- A. What all these descriptions tell us
- B. Not just regular, ordinary people, and not all people everywhere – but a very privileged, select, precious, holy and royal people
- C. Brings up question, what does this identity of US as part of God’s Kingdom mean for how we live? Answer – **v. 11, 12 (REFER)**
- D. **1** – As people of God’s Kingdom, where is our home, our residence? Not this world – US are aliens, strangers, just here temporarily; our home, permanent residence is not an earthly one, it’s a divine (heavenly) one
- E. **2** – Because of this we are to *abstain* (keep away from, not participate in, avoid at all cost) *from sinful desires*; “war” *against [our] souls* is a daily battle and will continue to be as long as we’re in this temporary residence – this world
- F. **3** – Because we are *aliens* here, we’re to *live such good lives among [the ungodly, unrighteous], though they accuse [US]* (not If they do but it’s When they do), they will see US differently, they’ll *see [our] good deeds* (not just any good deeds, but those good deeds for the sake and cause of Jesus Christ) *and [they will] glorify God*

VI. Close

- A. **Question:** How does this make you feel? To know who WE are according to God’s Word?
- B. **Question:** Could we ask for anything better from God? He’s already given more than we could ever hope for as once lost, sinful, dying people
- C. **REFER v. 10**
- D. Invite those who need to receive God’s mercy; invite those who desire adoption as a child of God; invite those who want to be part of US – people of the King