

Title: Thy kingdom come III – an open hand
Speaker: André Kruger
Date: 19 June 2011
Time: 09:00



A kingdom divided

Why a kingdom divided? Why does the body of Christ look like it does?

- *We struggle to discern between open-handed doctrines and closed-handed doctrines.*

It's not about being right, it's about being Christ like.

2 Timothy 2:24 (NLT) ²⁴ *A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.*

Misunderstanding the kingdom

Luke 9:53–56 (NKJV) ⁵³ *But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.* ⁵⁴ *And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?”* ⁵⁵ *But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.* ⁵⁶ *For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.”*

- For the disciples it was all about being right and proving it. They had an ego problem.
- They missed the heart of Christ completely. Jesus came to save, not destroy.

The open hand – extending mercy

Luke 10:27–29 (NLT) ²⁷ *The man answered, “ ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”* ²⁸ *“Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”* ²⁹ *The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”*

Luke 10:33 (NKJV) ³³ *But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion.*

- **Samaritans were despised by Jews.** Yet the Samaritan had compassion on one who despised him.
- Why show compassion? Because of the love of God. God had mercy on us, and so we should do the same for others. Especially those who don't like us.

Luke 10:37 (NKJV) ³⁷ *And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”*

- **Who is the true neighbour? Inside church:** Is there anybody in church that you don't get along too well with? Any person that you should be giving mercy to but instead you are critical of them? **Outside church:** Is there somebody “wounded” and maybe doesn't like you, but they need your mercy?
- **Fear closes our hand.** We close our hands, when we should be listening, caring and loving.
- ***We can be 100% right and still be wrong, if love is missing. Share the truth in love.*

Kingdom values

Ephesians 4:1–3 (NLT) ¹ *Therefore I beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.* ² *Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.* ³ *Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.*

- **Be patient with each other:** Somebody might be wrong now, but that could change. Trust in God to work in the lives of people.
- **Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit** - There are different ways of doing things. One way isn't necessarily right or wrong. It's just different. Each of us will like a certain style more than another style of operating.

Kingdom ministry

Ephesians 4:11–13 (ESV) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

- **To equip the saints** – *who does ministry? the saints do. People are to shepherd one another. The saints cause the kingdom to come, not the pastor.
- **Building up the body of Christ** – many Christians, because we are focused on something either being right or wrong, are more wired to break down than to build up. Yet we have been called to build up. We are called to encourage one another!
- **Mature Christians.** Why do many Christians become more critical as they become older in the Lord? Surely a mature Christian is one who loves more?
- **A mature Christian is one who celebrates different gifts and different styles.** Celebrating different styles of preaching, different styles of worship, different styles of doing life and doing church. This is extending an open hand to those around us.