

CELL NOTES
For Dave Day's talk on 22 June 2008

THE CHURCH AND THE KINGDOM

- The church is not the kingdom
- The church is created by the kingdom
- The church witnesses to the kingdom
- The church is the instrument of the kingdom

Matthew 13

The Parables of the Kingdom... how the church can respond

THE METHOD

Parables of the sower and wheat and tares

- We sow the good news of the kingdom
- We sow the people of the kingdom

THE EFFECTIVENESS

The parable of the mustard seed and leaven

- The devil's ploy is to make us believe that what we can do is at best ineffective and that light will never overcome darkness

THE MOTIVATION

The parable of the treasure and pearl

- What has captivated our lives and what will we do to express that?
- Have we sought first the Kingdom and His righteousness?

THE RESPONSIBILITY

The Dragnet

THE GROWING KINGDOM

Treasures new and old

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

“The church gets in trouble whenever it thinks it is in the church business rather than the Kingdom business.

In the church business, people are concerned with church activities, religious behaviour and spiritual things. In the Kingdom business, people are concerned with Kingdom activities, all human behaviour and everything God has made, visible and invisible. Kingdom people see human affairs as saturated with spiritual meaning and Kingdom significance.

Kingdom people seek first the Kingdom of God and its justice; church people often put church work above concerns of justice, mercy and truth. Church people think about how to get people into the church; Kingdom people think about how to get the church into the world. Church people worry that the world might change the church; Kingdom people work to see the church change the world.

When Christians put the church ahead of the Kingdom, they settle for the status quo and their own kind of people. When they catch a vision of the Kingdom of God, their sight shifts to the poor, the orphan, the widow, the refugee, “the wretched of the earth”, and to God’s future. They see the life and work of the church from the perspective of the Kingdom.”

Taken from ‘Liberating the Church (the Ecology of Church and Kingdom)’ by Howard Snyder. (Prologue)

1. Discuss the above
2. What does the Kingdom of God mean to you?
3. How do we, in BCF, see the Kingdom expressed in all we do?
4. If sons and daughters of the Kingdom are to be sown, in what way am I being sown out into this world? What effect does this have on my work and family life?
5. If I am really seeking first the Kingdom of God, how do I do it? What changes would it make in my life?