

## Session 2: Living as Kingdom Ambassadors

18 Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 19 That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us.

2 Corinthians 5:18–19

<sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God." 21 He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

We are sent by a King, with a message, to a foreign land

# 1. We are sent with an allegiance to the King



<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphim were standing above him; they each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another:

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Armies; his glory fills the whole earth.

Isaiah 6:1-5

<sup>4</sup> The foundations of the doorways shook at the sound of their voices, and the temple was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup> Then I said:

Woe is me for I am ruined because I am a man of unclean lips and live among a people of unclean lips, and because my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Armies.

Isaiah 6:1-5

<sup>6</sup> This is what the LORD, the King of Israel and its Redeemer, the LORD of Armies, says:

I am the first and I am the last.
There is no God but me.

7 Who like me can appounce to

<sup>7</sup>Who, like me, can announce the future? Let him say so and make a case before me, since I have established an ancient people. Let these gods declare the coming things, and what will take place.

Isaiah 44:6–8

<sup>8</sup> Do not be startled or afraid. Have I not told you and declared it long ago? You are my witnesses! Is there any God but me? There is no other Rock; I do not know any. Isaiah 44:6-8

36 "My kingdom is not of this world," said Jesus. "If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." <sup>37</sup> "You are a king then?" Pilate asked. "You say that I'm a king," Jesus replied. "I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."

John 18:36–37

### Views of the Kingdom

- 1. Two Kingdoms
- 2. Transformationalism
- 3. Dispensationalism

Then he said to them, "Give, then, to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Matthew 22:21

### Views of the Kingdom

- 1. Two Kingdoms
- 2. Transformationalism
- 3. Dispensationalism

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth." Genesis 1:28



The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever. Revelation 11:15

# The Sending King and Kingdom



## Centripetal Mission

THE PEOPLE OF GOD

THE NATIONS

### Centrifugal Mission

THE NATIONS

THE PEOPLE OF GOD

THE NATIONS

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you." John 20:21



My aim is to preach the gospel where Christ has not been named, so that I will not build on someone else's foundation. Romans 15:20

2. We are sent with a message of reconciliation

<sup>5</sup> For we are not proclaiming ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus's sake. <sup>6</sup> For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:5–6

18 Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 19 That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God." 21 He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

#### Reconciliation

- 1. A hostility and division exist between God and people.
- 2. God is the initiator of our reconciliation.
- 3. The work of Jesus Christ is the sole solution to this hostility and division.
- 4. Our *reconciliation* sets us on *mission* as active *participants* in the *reconciliation* of others and of all things.



17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him, and unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup> The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Luke 4:17–19

<sup>19</sup> Although I am free from all and not anyone's slave, I have made myself a slave to everyone, in order to win more people. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win Jews; to those under the law, like one under the law—though I myself am not under the law—to win those under the law. 21 To those who are without the law, like one without the law—though I am not without God's law but under the law of Christ—to win those without the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some. <sup>23</sup> Now I do all this because of the gospel, so that I may share in the blessings.

1 Corinthians 9:19–23

We have to be students of crisis. We must understand the why and how of our culture's brokenness.

# 3 Cultural Crises 1. Lost Identity

#### Lost Identity

But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name. John 1:12

I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah 1:5

For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:27-28



# Misplaced Purpose

So don't worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Matthew 6:31-33

## Misplaced Purpose

<sup>7</sup> But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, 11 assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.

Philippians 3:7-11

# Misplaced Purpose

<sup>1</sup> So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:1–3



#### Chronic Loneliness

<sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" Or again, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you!" <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, those parts of the body that are weaker are indispensable.  $^{2\overline{3}}$  And those parts of the body that we consider less honorable, we clothe these with greater honor, and our unrespectable parts are treated with greater respect, <sup>24</sup> which our respectable parts do not need. Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable.

1 Corinthians 12:20–24

## Chronic Loneliness

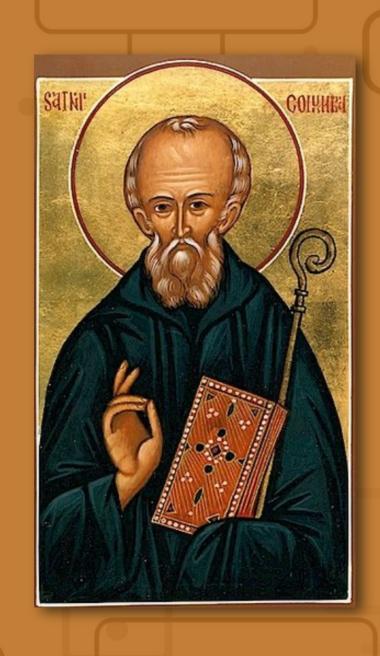
<sup>4</sup> Sing to God! Sing praises to his name. Exalt him who rides on the clouds his name is the LORD—and celebrate before him. <sup>5</sup> God in his holy dwelling is a father of the fatherless and a champion of widows. <sup>6</sup> God provides homes for those who are deserted. He leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a scorched land.

#### Chronic Loneliness

...Demas has deserted me...Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you, for he is useful to me in the ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus...At my first defense, no one stood by me, but everyone deserted me. May it not be counted against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that I might fully preach the word and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever! Amen.

2 Timothy 4:10-12, 16-18

#### Columba



# Reflection Questions

How do you need to consider the *kingship* of God?

# Reflection Questions

Do you tend to "act arrived" or to "live sent?"

# Reflection Questions

Which cultural *crisis* have you seen most clearly, up close? How could you be a Kingdom *ambassador* in that context?

