

Summary

This sermon explores Revelation 21:1-8, focusing on God's perspective versus our human perspective on life's challenges. The pastor uses the metaphor of a child insisting on flying a kite despite poor conditions to illustrate how we often think we're the exception to life's rules. The message emphasizes that Revelation provides God's spiritual perspective on earthly situations, revealing a future where God makes everything new. The sermon addresses two kingdoms - God's kingdom (New Jerusalem) and the world's kingdom (Babylon) - and calls believers to choose their citizenship while walking in step with Jesus through the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today to study Your Word, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us. Help us to set aside our own perspectives and preconceptions so that we might see things from Your eternal viewpoint. Holy Spirit, guide our discussion and help us to be vulnerable and honest with one another as we explore these truths together. May this time draw us closer to You and to each other as we seek to understand Your heart for us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's something you were absolutely convinced would work out differently for you than it did for others, but you ended up with the same result anyway?

Key Verses

1. Revelation 21:1-8 King James Version (KJV)
2. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 King James Version (KJV)
3. Matthew 5:14 King James Version (KJV)
4. Matthew 28:19-20 King James Version (KJV)

Questions

1. How does understanding that Revelation means 'unveiling' or 'revealing' God's perspective change the way you might approach reading this book?
2. The pastor mentioned we naturally focus on what's in front of us rather than God's eternal perspective. What current situation in your life would benefit from seeing it through God's eyes?
3. What does it mean to you that God's vision for the future includes both community (the city) and personal intimacy (bride and groom)?
4. How do you balance having a personal relationship with Jesus while also being part of a community of believers?
5. The sermon describes two errors: apathy ('God's got it, I'll just wait') and 'we can do it-ism' (trying to build God's kingdom with worldly methods). Which tendency do you struggle with more?

6. What does it look like practically to 'walk in step with Jesus' through the Holy Spirit's guidance in your daily decisions?
7. How does knowing that 'this is not the end of the story' change the way you view your current struggles or the state of the world?
8. The passage mentions that our citizenship determines our values and behavior. In what areas of your life do you need to better reflect your citizenship in God's kingdom?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where you've been operating from a worldly perspective rather than God's eternal perspective. Each day, pray specifically for the Holy Spirit to help you see that situation through God's eyes and guide your responses accordingly. Practice 'walking in step with Jesus' by checking in with Him through prayer before making decisions in that area.

Key Takeaways

1. Revelation provides God's spiritual perspective on earthly situations, not just predictions about the future
2. God is making everything new both in the future and in the present, and we're called to walk alongside Him in this work
3. We are saved into both community (the church) and personal relationship with Jesus - both aspects are essential
4. Our current troubles are 'light and momentary' when viewed from God's eternal perspective
5. We must choose our citizenship between God's kingdom and the world's kingdom, and live according to that choice

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for giving us Your perspective through Your Word today. Help us to remember that You are making everything new and that our current struggles are truly light and momentary in light of eternity. As we go from this place, help us to walk in step with You through the power of Your Holy Spirit. May we live as citizens of Your kingdom, reflecting Your values in our daily lives. Give us courage to trust Your perspective over our own, and help us to be faithful members of Your community while also growing in our personal relationship with You. We choose life, Lord, and we choose You. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.