

## TANGIBLE KINGDOM (5)

### BREAKING THE BARRIERS

#### Message Notes

Text: Mark 2:13-3:6

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This passage reveals a number of hindrances to the tangible kingdom – things that build walls rather than bridges with people. Unfortunately they are around as much today as they were then.

#### **1. Traditionalism**

As opposed to traditions: *"the unchangeable aspects of the faith that give us deep roots."*

Paul said, *"Stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught"* (2 Thessalonians 2:15). For example...

- Believing in the authority of God's Word
  - Submitting to the Lordship of Jesus Christ
  - Committing ourselves to love one another
  - Partaking of communion to remember Christ's sacrifice
  - Obeying the Lord by being baptized
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Charles Swindoll defines traditionalism as *"an attitude that resists change, adaptation, or alteration. It is being suspicious of the new, the up-to-date, and the different. It is substituting a legalistic system for the freedom and freshness of the Spirit"* (p163 of "Living above the level of mediocrity").

*"Tradition is the living faith of those now dead; traditionalism is the dead faith of those now living"*

According to Jesus, traditionalism is like:  
Old Garments (21) and Old Wine (22)

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Old wineskins were brittle and unbending and cannot contain the fermentation process of new wine. They burst and both the wine and the wineskin are ruined.

*See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ." [Colossians 2:8]*

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## **2. Legalism**

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*"If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" – In accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and*

*self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence." [Colossians 2:20-23]*

### **3. Separationism**

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Read 2 Corinthians 6:17 (v. 14-18)

Separationism is obviously a hindrance to expressing our faith because *"There's no impact without contact"*

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### **4. Hypocrisy**

The word was originally used of Greek and Roman actors who would use large masks and pretend to be something they were not

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There are still religious hypocrites around today. People are genuinely disappointed when those who call themselves Christian don't live up to the message they preach. Some people who have sincerely sought truth for their lives have been turned away from the Christian message because of hypocrisy. Others use this as an excuse:

"I won't become a Christian because the church is full of hypocrites." Motivational speaker Zig Ziglar responds to this excuse with *"Why not? We can handle another one!"*

If you've used this excuse let me ask you a question:

Are you going to allow a hypocrite to deny you from having a life-changing relationship with your creator? Would you give them the satisfaction?

Remember, if a hypocrite is standing between you and God that makes the hypocrite closer to God than you are!

Traditionalism, legalism, separationism and hypocrisy are all barriers to expressing God's tangible kingdom. Let's break down the barriers in Jesus' Name!

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