

Sermon: Kingdom Connected

Theme: Changed!

Scripture: Hebrews 10:19-25

¹⁹ And now we are brothers and sisters in God's family because of the blood of Jesus, and he welcomes us to come right into the most holy sanctuary in the heavenly realm—boldly and with no hesitation. ²⁰ For he has dedicated a new,^[a] life-giving way for us to approach God. For just as the veil was torn in two, Jesus' body was torn open to give us free and fresh access to him!

²¹ And since we now have a magnificent King-Priest to welcome us into God's house, ²² we come closer to God and approach him^[b] with an open heart, fully convinced by faith that nothing will keep us at a distance from him. For our hearts have been sprinkled with blood to remove impurity and we have been freed from an

accusing conscience and now we are clean, unstained, and presentable to God inside and out!^[c]

Write this down: According to Hebrews 10:22 By the blood of Jesus, I AM changed! I Am Good Enough for God to use me.

Scripture goes on to say:

²³ So now we must cling tightly to the hope that lives within us, knowing that God always keeps his promises!^[d] ²⁴ Discover creative ways to encourage others^[e] and to motivate them toward acts of compassion, doing beautiful works as expressions of love. ²⁵ This is not the time to pull away and neglect^[f] meeting together, as some have formed the habit of doing, because we need each other! In fact, we should come together even more frequently, eager to encourage and urge each other onward as we anticipate that day dawning.

One of the most interesting things I find in scripture is how despite what the people were facing or going through they were always encouraged to come together. I tried to get away from preaching this message, but God wouldn't let me because somebody needs to hear this. Even if you have heard part of this message before it's not by chance that you are hear God want's you to hear it again.

Before I get into the message:

Write this down: Whatever I don't change, I choose!

My heart was devastated by the news of the death of Chadwick Boseman. Our continued prayers for his family. Mr. Boseman, A man of character and great strength played in movies like "Get on up!" Based on the incredible life story of the Godfather of Soul, James Brown. He played

in Marshall based on the life of Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall. This movie featured Mr. Marshall in his early days and spoke to the challenges he faced while working as a lawyer for the NAACP. Mr. Bozeman also played in “42” highlighting the life of Jackie Robinson. He played in a lot of great movies and you already know my favorite, “The Black Panther.” He has been honored in various ways this past week and I honor him as well for the change that he stood for and inspired.

Somebody shout “Change!”

The Black Panther! The character and the movie that stirred up pride in a people and brought with it change. This movie changed the view of being “Black” giving our young people a sense of HOPE. Hope that they don’t have to live up to the negative stigma that has been attached to being Black in

America. This movie shifted and changed the thinking allowing people to see themselves as the ingenuitive and the beautiful people that they are.

Wakanda forever!

Real quick, You know I have to summarize the movie again. There were some African tribes that came across a rare substance called vibranium. These tribes selected a warrior to ingests the "heart-shaped herb" containing metal giving the warrior superhuman abilities changing him into the "Black Panther". In the movie this character unites all the tribes but the Jabari tribe to form the kingdom of Wakanda. After the death of his father, T'Challa returns home to the African nation of Wakanda to take his rightful place as king. However, he couldn't just take it, he had to go through the

ancestral rituals with the possibility of combat before he could be crowned king. This warrior if he wanted to be king had to do this, because there are legal parameters that cover everything in the kingdom of Wakanda. Let me say that again, there are legal parameters, laws, rules that govern the kingdom.

And just like there are legal parameters in Wakanda there are legal parameters in the Kingdom of God.

Somebody shout: I AM Kingdom Connected because I AM connected to God.
That right there was enough for you to get your praise on.

As a matter of fact, I invite you to **Write that Down: I AM Kingdom Connected because I belong to God.**

Remember that the next time you want to tell somebody a piece of your mind.

Remember that when you want to be nasty to some folks.

Remember that the next time you want to talk about somebody.

We represent HIM!

Somebody shout, “I AM Kingdom Connected.”

Now that we are on the same page, we are Kingdom Connected because of the Blood of Jesus.

Can I talk to you for a minute?

If you’ve seen the movie “Black Panther” you know that in the end things change and all the tribes come together, they unite, they all come together embracing their differences, and using their differences to

make the Kingdom of Wakanda stronger. This could be done because they established a connection, a connection to the King and the Kingdom. They were Kingdom Connected.

God has given us His people the same opportunity, to come together embracing our differences and to use our differences and not allowing them to become issues because we are established on the Rock, to be a united front, strong and connected in the Kingdom. A strong Kingdom where the gates of hell shall not prevail against us.

Somebody Shout, “I AM Kingdom Connected.”

In our passage of Scripture, the author encourages the reader to change their mindset, to shift and have confidence in what Jesus has done through the shedding of

His blood, which enables connection and granting the reader access to enter into the presence of the King with confidence.

In this passage, the curtain points us to the curtain in the temple surrounding the most holy place. There was a time that only the high priest had access through the curtain into the presence of God. The Holiest of Holies. Everybody else was forbidden to enter or go behind the curtain and if one did, they faced death!

But when Jesus died, He changed everything! The temple curtain was torn in two, from top to bottom. It was a picture that Jesus has removed the barrier between us and God, giving us access to God, giving us Kingdom Connection.

This was a literal demonstration of the relationship between Faith, Hope and Love.

Write this down: Faith in God leads “me” to place my hope in His promises.

The Bible teaches us as Kingdom connected people that our restored relationship with God prompts us to restore our relationship with others.

In other words, “love for God demonstrates itself in love for others.”

Oh, that was good you should write that down. “Love for God demonstrates itself in love for others.”

Jesus, the great high priest, grants access to God through the curtain of his body. The King, Jesus the Christ fulfills all the legal parameters, laws, requirements so that we can enter freely, and without fear of death into God’s presence, not as wimps but boldly because we are His own.

Write this down: By the blood of Jesus I have been cleansed, washed clean, and I can enter His presence with great confidence that God accepts me!

Doesn't it feel good to know that because of Christ, we are Kingdom Connected. That we have a secure hope for the future. So many people don't understand the benefits of being Kingdom Connected. We are connected! We have the hook up!

Paul says it this way in 2 Corinthians 5:20
“You are God’s Ambassadors.”

What does all this mean?

Just what the title of this message says, now we can say with confidence “Changed: I AM Kingdom Connected!”

Why?

Because You are chosen by God therefore your identity is found in HIM!

That was good!

That was a great opportunity for every disgruntled, discontented, dissatisfied, and displeased person trying to find their identity to give God praise.

If you didn't know before. Now you know. You are Kingdom Connected with all your stuff because of Jesus, Our identity is found in God!

I invite you to **write that down** and make it personal: **“My identity is found in God!”**

A couple of months ago, I got a new phone. Because I've had an iPhone before I didn't read the instruction manual that came with the phone. So, there were a lot of functions to the new phone that I was not familiar with. Which meant that my phone was not being used to full capacity because I didn't read the manual.

Here's what I learned and many of you already know this. When you buy a new product or service it comes with an instruction manual or a booklet that says read this first. These books are filled with descriptions of the product or service. Valuable and important information like how to assemble the thing and how to care for the product. The manual is the heart (purpose) of the manufacturer concerning the product.

It's the manufacturer's intention of what the product is capable of. It tells us what each button, screw or tab is for.

But most of the time what do we do? We ignore the manual. Push or toss it to the side and just start tinkering with the thing.

Sometimes we try to put the thing together by looking at the pictures. All to find out, that when we are finished trying to put it

together without reading the instructions, we have extra screws, or we just start using the product or services without learning about the product or service. Okay, maybe that's just me.

But the reason the manufacturer gives us the manual is because the successful use of the product or services protects the reputation (or the Name) of the manufacturer. They are the authority of the product they produced. Therefore, they know and understand the intention and the full potential of the product or services in which they produced. Because they are the ones that created it. They are the authority.

When the manufacturer or the authority tells us something, we can count on it. They are the ones who put their name on the thing. They know and understand the purpose in

which they created the thing. They are the authority.

God is the authority on who we are. He is our Creator. He gives us the correct information. He is the one we should be listening to about who we are. Both author of Hebrews and Paul discovered that and shares that information with us. Not only them but all throughout the Bible men and women discovered that God is the Authority. And as believers in Jesus Christ, He informs us of who we are. The purpose in which we are created. To be Kingdom connected to represent HIM.

Write this down: “I Am chosen by God” . . . in an instant we are changed! We went from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted" (1 Peter 2:9-10, The Message). Most of us spend our entire lives trying to earn acceptance. We sought it from our

parents, peers, partners. We sought acceptance from people we respect and people who got on our nerves. Our desire to be accepted influenced our style of clothing, the cars we drive, the houses we live in, and even the career path we chose.

Why are we so driven by acceptance? Because we love the feeling of acceptance. We love to know that someone has chosen and accepted us. And when we are rejected it leaves us baffled and confused.

Remember playing sports as a kid? When I was growing up, we used to play sports like baseball, kickball, basketball, and football. (Yeah, I was a little tomboy growing up). We would divide up into teams. Usually the two best players would be the captains and they would pick their teams. I remember thinking "I hope I get picked by this team, because they are the winning team." If you

were chosen by that team, remember how great you felt to be chosen by the best player? On the other hand, remember how bad you felt when they got down to the last two or three and you still were not chosen? That feeling of rejection lowers a person's self-esteem.

Isn't it good to know that you are chosen by God! Isn't good to know that You have connection to the Kingdom!

He calls us "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people."

You are chosen!

Somebody shout: I AM chosen!

Paul the apostle says it like this in **2 Corinthians 5:20** "*You are an ambassador of Christ.*"

Write this down: “I am an ambassador of Christ.”

Ambassadors are very impressive people. They have clearly been chosen very carefully. They have all been trained in the art of diplomacy. They are skilled at representing their country both by how they act and what they say.

As I encounter God’s people, it has always been my prayer that we are doers of God’s word and not just hearers.

So, hear me and let’s put some action to it!

Write this down: “As an Ambassador, it is important how I act and what I say.”

So, let us start acting like God says we should and saying things that line up with God’s word. **Because we are connected to the Kingdom!**

To be an ambassador is an immense privilege. An ambassador is ‘a minister of

the highest rank sent to a foreign court to represent the... sovereign or country.’

The Greek word translated as ‘ambassador’ is *presbeuo*. It shares the same root as ‘presbyter’, which is one of the words used to describe church leaders. Whether you are in a recognized leadership role or not.

I shared with you a few of weeks ago that we all have our sphere of influence, therefore, we are an ambassador of Christ. People who are connected to the Kingdom. We represent HIM. I’m talking to the believers.

As an Ambassador you are extended extraordinary privileges and responsibility of representing Jesus in this world. You are God’s representative on earth. The question then becomes, “*How are you representing HIM?*” Do people love to see you come or go?

Do you bring life to situations or death by your negativity?

Listen, We are Kingdom Connected Ambassadors, here to be a blessing to one another, our communities, our cities and to the uttermost parts of the world. We are blessed in order to be a blessing to the whole world.

That we may proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

But there are times when things seem not to connect between knowing these truths about who God says we are and living them out. This can be affected by how we see ourselves, life experiences and the ways we allow the world to define us.

If we are going to live out the fullness of our new identity in Christ, we must believe what God says. If there is a problem with that, we

must identify what it is that is keeping us from doing so. This changes from one person to another.

False beliefs can wedge its way between the identity that God gives us, and the one that we give ourselves. This can be a result of life experiences that cause us to feel impure and guilty. We see ourselves guilty and impure, so we believe God sees us that way. We, then, create and live out of an identity that God never intended for us too. Our beliefs and our actions line up with the flawed beliefs we carry, which are contrary to God's.

Write this Down: "I believe God!"

According to Ephesians 1,

- . We are Accepted not Rejected.
- . We are free and not in bondage.
- . We are God's own covered by His Grace, not condemned under the law.

- We are adopted as His own, not orphaned left to fend for ourselves.
- We are God's chosen
- **We are Kingdom Connected Ambassadors!**

We are God's

chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that we may proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light; we were once were not a people but are now the people of God, covered by His mercy."

We are a Changed people!

We are God's Ambassadors."

We are God's Kingdom Connected Ambassadors!

The KINGDOM belongs to God.

He is the ALPHA and the OMEGA

The beginning and the end. The creator of the Universe. The Redeemer. The Healer. Elohim!

Yahweh! Abba, Father! El Elyon, God most High! El, Roi, the God who sees us! I'm talking about El Shaddai, our God Almighty. Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who is our Provider.

He is King of the Kingdom!

The Kingdom! The Kingdom! The Kingdom belongs to God.

You are Kingdom connected because you are HIS!