

Kingdom Culture Series, A Kingdom Man: Climate Controllers

(Following the Skitguys video)

Happy Father's Day! Yes, our greatest gift on this Father's Day weekend is not a gift we receive, but the gift of our lives as examples, our very presence with those around us. So what kind of gift are you to those around you is the big question? I hope our very presence brings a positive change to our surroundings. Men, we so underestimate the influence we have over the spiritual climate in the places we are in. And we have a choice to positively or negatively control the climate around us.

I'll be speaking today primarily to a man, in this message, A kingdom man: Climate controllers, and what I'll be sharing is not just for men, but all of us who can affect positive change to the settings God has placed us in.

(Cut into welcoming people into my home)

I wanna welcome you into my home. Come inside. It was in 2001 that my family and I moved from our Ewa Beach, Beach house, into this home and into the Mililani Community. Looking back, I'm so glad I did. And one of the first things Gayle and I did as we set up our home was to place this cross stitch picture that was made of Gayle and my theme verse for our marriage which come August is gonna be 30 years of celebrating God's faithfulness in our lives. 1 John 4:19, We love because he first loved us!

And we wanted to place this scripture in the center of our home where we'd remember, our kids remember, and those visiting us would know that the way we live out our lives is based on the love we've experienced because of Jesus. That self-sacrificial love demands that I prefer you over me. And knowing that we have experienced that amazing love from Jesus, we can in

turn have the ability to love each other with that kind of love. And that's the culture Gayle and I have wanted to build in our home.

So how do we practically bring God's Kingdom Culture into our homes, especially for a man, and transform the spiritual climate there!

Spiritually speaking, our lives can either be a thermometer or thermostat?

A Thermometer just indicates the temperature of the climate. It shows how hot or how cold that place is. A thermostat is different. A thermostat is able to, when set well, can change, regulate the temperature of that place up or down. And, we have a choice to either live like a thermometer just reflecting the temperature of where you're in or you can choose to be a thermostat where you can control that environment of that culture.

If the culture is "everyone is looking out for themselves", as a thermometer, you reflect that culture too and live for yourself, what's in your best interest. So if people swear, you swear too. If people gossip about others, you do the same and talk stink too. You act the same as your surrounding cuz you are the thermometer. Or you can choose to be a thermostat who instead of being a passive indicator of the culture, you can affect the change in temperature into that culture.

I can enter my world with being grouchy, tired, short, selfish, and everyone around me is affected and become grouchy, short, selfish. And the opposite is true too. If I bring joy, positivity, patience, that can positively affect change around me.

So the question is what are you like in your settings of life? A thermometer or a thermostat?

The problem is the culture of this world doesn't celebrate and encourage God's Kingdom culture values for a Godly man.

The ideal in America is of a self-made man, dependent on ones inner fortitude to be in control of his world. Strength, confidence, assertiveness, and independence are the markers of this man. God's Kingdom culture manliness is quite different. Yes, there is strength, confidence, and assertiveness, but instead of independence, there is a marked dependence on God. It's a Kingdom culture trait of the releasing control to God and his ways and his power in and through our lives, not our own.

(CUT) And I want to share about one way we can choose to be different, not a thermometer, but a thermostat in our roles as men in the environments God has placed us.)

It starts with knowing what the best settings for our thermostats to control our climate for ideal spiritual growth and health, starting in our homes. And that should be our greatest pursuit to figure out the best settings and live that out for everything around us to flourish.

We like stories of great pursuit? Indiana Jones pursuing his treasures, For Sports (Lebron James pursuing another championship with another team), the good news is that pro bball is starting soon. Medical (in pursuit for a vaccine for this novel Covid 19 virus),

As men, we are all in pursuit of something. Did you hear about the man who found the millions? The search for Forrest Fenn's hidden treasure became a sensation, attracting thousands of people to try to decipher the clues and embark on what they hoped would be a life-altering hike in the wilderness. And people died searching for that treasure until it was found last week after 10 years.

Jesus speaks about a **treasure to pursue**. He calls it the Kingdom of God. In Matthew 13:44, Jesus says this, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a

treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field. I hope and pray that we, Men, are not settling for anything less than that treasure:

What's the treasure: That God's Kingdom culture of peace filling our lives and our homes. The sense that everything is good inside (that even in the midst of covid, loss of income, difficulties in workplace, personal challenges there is peace, the sense that God's got us. How, by us placing God at the center of your life and family! God, I, You! **If you missed it, Pastor Glenn and Theresa powerfully shared about this triangle relationship in last week's message. So good to watch that again!**

We even see the pursuit for greatness happening within the ranks of Jesus' disciples. In fact, the pursuit of greatness turned into an argument amongst them. In Luke 22:24 – 27 it says,

²⁴ Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them. ²⁵ Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called 'friends of the people.' ²⁶ But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. ²⁷ Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves.

Did you catch what the mark of greatness is? Jesus sets the thermostat for greatness as someone taking the lowest rank, as a servant. Yes, you heard Jesus correctly, being a servant is that mark to where we should set our thermostats!

Jesus says in a parallel passage in Mark 10:45, For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” And this is so counter cultural to the world’s values.

I don’t know about you, but I wanna be found closest to Jesus. As Jesus says, “For I am among you as one who serves.”

And if Jesus models a life of a servant, and that’s the mark of greatness, “God, let that be my greatest pursuit!” Being a servant requires the character quality of humility. Again, counter culture stuff. In this world of I gotta be right, gotta be respected, gotta have it all together. Humility is quite opposite.

In my living room is displayed one of my cherished possessions. No it’s not my speargun, my golf clubs, or baseball glove, or my degrees, although those are important. It’s this olive wood carving. On my 2007 on my trip to Israel, I found this olive carving of Jesus and Peter. If you know your bible, you know which person Jesus is. What is the place of honor? It’s a position of saying, I want to honor you! I want to show you how special and cared for you are, how, by washing your feet. In Jesus’ day, there were no concrete or asphalt roads. It was dusty and dirty. And it was the culture to honor your guests when they visited to have one of your servants wash their feet.

It’s a culture of honor of being feet washers like Jesus. This olive carving, serves as a constant reminder to live differently in my house where my whole being says, “I deserve to be served” as the man in the house.

So you wanna be a Kingdom Man, we gotta choose to live as servants, equipping ourselves with humility.

That same Peter who gets his feet washed by Jesus writes this in his letter to his fellow Christians: ⁵ In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, **dress yourselves in humility** as you relate to one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁶ So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.

Peter urges us to dress in humility. You wanna dress for success in our world, men? Dress with humility! That would be the ultimate GQ man, God’s Quarterly man.

We all wanna be elevated in God’s Kingdom Culture and The key is humility, that culture of humility and honor in our homes. And I pray that culture starts in our homes and goes out from there.

You see Humility insists on God’s Kingdom Ways to our own ways! The opposite to this is what? Yeah, “Pride”, when we impose our selfish ways! And that kills the climate! The Kingdom Climate Killer is our Pride. And our pride can rear it’s ugly head at times, and kills our climate.

What are the Marks of a Kingdom Man that changes the climate, where we can be thermostats, “spiritual climate controllers”: I’ll just list a couple of markers:

- Admit when you are wrong. How many of you struggle with this? That a climate killer!
- Admit you need help. You don’t have to feel like you’ve got it all together. And when you don’t have all the answer, solutions, be humble enough to admit to that.
- Seize opportunities to serve/help those in your lives!

For me, one of the greatest ways I can be a servant in my home is to **Be emotionally present**: Sometimes I give so much of my attention to those

outside that I am depleted for the most important people around me. I am tempted to put on my old clothing of selfishness at home. And tune out those loved ones around me.

I can be physically present, but be so far away emotionally and mentally. Sometimes, I just need to decompress from the world, enter my man cave (the trouble is, my man cave is my home) so that's why it's hard. "But Men, our families, for you men without kids, or women, those closest around you need the best "You" you can give, the fully engaged "You" as possible."

And The only way we can have the power to be a Climate Controller, A thermostat for God's Kingdom Culture in our homes at our workplaces is to dress for success by putting on the servants uniform! And by allowing God's spirit to take over our lives.

(Video Men's OG) You wanna see some GQ men in our church that are meeting now, watch this! These men are striving to be Kingdom men in their worlds.

If you're not connected to a Men's group and this one works for you, call one of those men. Also, there are other Kingdom Men's OGs that are meeting with men from your campuses. Let us know you'd like to connect in one through the connection card.

Paul says this in his letter to the Galatians, in Galatians 2:20. He says, My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." The good news is that we have the very presence of God in our lives, as the Holy Spirit to empower us men to be the Climate Controllers, those thermostats of change in our homes.

TESTIMONY:

Watch this impromptu testimony of Kai and Jodi Kawasugi as they shared with me about how the climate has changed in their household because Kai's engaging presence, the gift being a Kingdom man in his home as a father and a husband.

Wasn't that so good. Clearly Covid has changed so many things in our lives. The spiritual climate could have gotten colder in his house, but it remained ideal because Kai chose to be a resolute man, a Kingdom man, resolute to live out God's Kingdom values in his home. And you can see all the fruit that has been produced because of that!

Starting out with Kai! He and Jodi brought the Kingdom culture into their homes. And when the head gets it, the body follows, maybe not right away, maybe not easily, but when it starts with the head, there is a sense of peace on the inside even in the midst of a storm on the outside.

If you are listening to this today, this word is for everyone not just for men. Something amazing happens when we say "yes" to accept Jesus into our lives and allow him to start changing us from the inside out. We have the power to say no to our selfish ways because spiritual speaking, our old self died with Jesus! It's the new me! That people can see.

So let's live as walking dead people, dead to our old selves and now walking alive in Christ, Jesus. And be that climate changer, that thermostat to change the spiritual climate in our homes and everywhere we go.

And especially on this fathers day, fathers, may you be honored you in your important role as the head climate kingdom changer in your home. Your family looks to you for you to set that thermostat at the perfect temperature for optimal health in your house.

And if you're listening to this message today, and so want that, it starts with this big exchange, this exchange of receiving Jesus by faith, into your life. You're saying no more do I wanna live for myself and now I wanna have a new spirit, exchanging my life, for Jesus life, by inviting Jesus' spirit to come into your life!

John 1:12 says this, Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God
That's what becoming a Christian means, that you get restored into a right relationship with God being our father.

And on this Father's Day, that's the best way you can be honored, by receiving sonship or daughtership

I wanna pray with you! This might just be the best father's day gift you'll ever receive. It's a relationship with God through faith in Jesus in what he did by giving up of his life and dying for us so paying the penalty for our wrong doing and restoring a right relationship with your heavenly father. If you've never received that gift of life, pray with me.

Dear heavenly father. I thank you Jesus for dying for me. I receive you into my life. . . And now may your spirit take charge of me. I die now to my old ways, and live anew with your spirit in control of my life. Thank you so much for dying for me so that I can truly live as the best Kingdom man or woman you created me to be. Thank you for forgiving me of all my sins and choosing to live in my life to help me become a servant and be the best kingdom culture climate controller to those around me! In Jesus name!
Amen!

If you made a decision to receive Jesus into your lives, let us know. Our prayer team is standing by to pray with you.

And Fathers have a wonderful Fathers Day weekend, until next week
Aloha!

Ohana Group Discussion Questions:

1. What spoke to you most from the sermon?
2. What's the difference between being a thermometer or a thermostat?
3. In what specific ways can you live more like a thermostat in your home, workplace, and in your interactions with those in the world?
4. Read Philippines 2:3 – 7 & 1 Peter 5:5 – 6 and discuss how Paul and Peter urge us to live in humility.
5. How does pride specifically show up and kill the climate?
6. From 1 – 5 (with 5 being “I’m so marked by this quality”) discuss the markers of Climate Controllers for A God’s Kingdom Man
 - Admit when you’re wrong
 - Admit when you need help
 - Seize opportunities to serve others
 - Be emotionally present to those around you
7. Pray for one another to surrender to the Holy Spirit’s power in living a life of humility.