

Part 1

Kingdom Culture Family Series
KINGDOM CULTURE

Hey everyone, welcome to our house. Spent a lot of time here during quarantine. The Palompo family moved in just before Christmas of 1991, over 28 years ago. Mona immediately fell in love with the house because of the tile flooring and the huge living room for ministry. Pastor Mark was 5 years old when we moved in. Rachael was 2. And Caleb? He was twinkle in daddy's eye. This is the Blood Orange tree my mom and I planted in 2004 after our family reunion at Lake Tahoe. Mark just graduated from high school. Here is where Rachael practiced piano when she was little. She walked down these stairs in her beautiful senior prom dress. Over here is where I had Caleb stick his handprints after Christmas. Today Mona and I are making precious new memories with our grandkids.

Family. There's no way to understate important family is to us. Is it any wonder that the devil would set his sights on your family? He's got his red dot on your marriage and your kids. Arguably the most difficult place to be a Christian is at home. So for the next 5 weeks let's ask the Lord what HE thinks about family. Don't forget how we summarize in one word our vision for New Hope Central Oahu in 2020. KINGDOM. His Kingdom come on Earth (in Hawaii, as our t-shirts say) as it is in Heaven. So we need to have a conversation about how to embrace God's Kingdom in the most challenging place on Earth to be a Christian--at home with family.

How many of us have at least a little family dysfunction? If now and then you don't have one or two "passionate conversations" at home, then you're either on your honeymoon or your dead. Husband sees it one way, wife sees it totally different. Daddy sees it one way, kids totally different. Just remember when Jesus comes into our lives, He didn't come to take sides, He came to take over. And when Jesus takes over there's a completely different--here it is--*culture* at home. We're calling it a "Kingdom Culture."

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<<Part 2>>

A Kingdom Culture happens when you RECOGNIZE that Jesus is KING over your FAMILY. The opposite of a Kingdom Culture is what the Bible calls a "worldly" culture.

Jesus talked about it here:

"And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and **the worry of the world** and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful" (Matthew 13:22 NASB).

Paul famously talked about it here:

"And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2 NASB).

The world even has its own god-king:

“In whose case **the god of this world** has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:4 NASB).

The Greek word for world in these passages is αἰών which is more of a reference to the “age” we’re living in. So “for now” we’re living in the age where Satan is the “god of this world” but, as we all know, his days are numbered and soon--maybe sooner than we think--every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord of lords and King of kings. This is why the most powerful prayer we can pray over our families is “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.” Because as we speak, the old matrix of the dark world is being remade into the Kingdom of God on Earth. Super exciting right?

What we’re going to learn in this new series is this totally new and different way of living. When Jesus takes over our families He establishes an entirely new Kingdom Culture which may feel completely foreign to what we’re used to. And we will need to “renew our minds” in order to be transformed to this new culture. You might be thinking, “Mike, I’m good. I’ve accepted Christ, no sweat--it’s going to be smooth sailing from here on out.” Really. So what will you do if your husband tells you he’s having an affair, or you discover your son is addicted to porn, or your daughter is dating a non-Christian? Not so easy after all. When Jesus truly takes over He will establish a Kingdom Culture in your family where He is King over your household and so now you allow HIM to take the lead and help you navigate through all the “worldliness” that your family was born with. It’s a Kingdom Culture that may feel totally foreign at first--like you’re in a totally different country with a totally different culture than the one you grew up in.

Did you know that gifting someone a pair of shoes in China is considered bad luck? Or that showing up on time for dinner in Tanzania is considered rude? And in Singapore chewing gum just might land you jail. When traveling to different countries, you would do well to learn the culture so you don’t get in trouble! In the same way, Jesus tells us that His Kingdom is not of this world and that His people are not to be conformed to this world. So buckle in because over the next few weeks you may hear some things about marriage, divorce, dating, and sexuality that may sound completely different from what you’ve always known.

So let me summarize: A Kingdom Culture is where Jesus is King over your family and so His will is preferred over our own, and the family learns to worship and serve Jesus and each other in a spirit of love and unity. A worldly culture is where everyone is doing his own thing (which is what Satan wants), and each person in the family prefers to live for himself, looking out for his own interests, leading to arguing, division, pain, and heartache. If you were to enter a home with a Kingdom Culture you would feel the Shalom of the Presence of King Jesus. If you were to enter a worldly home, well, you get the picture.

Which direction is your family headed in? A Kingdom Culture? Or the world?

Throughout this whole series we will comparing and contrasting God’s Kingdom culture with worldliness.

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<<Part 3>>

So what is Step One in cultivating a Kingdom Culture at home?

What I'm about to tell you is how the Palompos established a Kingdom Culture in our family, and it will be the key to establishing a Kingdom Culture in yours as well: become a born-again, sold-out, Spirit-filled follower of Jesus Christ. Once He becomes King in your life, your family is that much closer to establishing a Kingdom Culture.

So once upon a time Mike Palompo was not a follower of Jesus. Ask my family of origin and they will tell you what a mean, selfish, unkind, lustful person I used to be. I get the heebie-jeebies thinking about it. And that selfishness got me in trouble at home, at school, with girls. Someday I hope I can apologize to some old friends for the way I used to be. But then Jesus found me the summer of 1975. When I came to Christ I was radically born-again! My heart was overflowing with the love of God. I wanted to tell everybody I knew about Jesus--especially my family. That's how you know you've been baptized in the Spirit--you just won't shut up about Jesus. The first person I led to Christ was my sister, Leila, then my brothers, Jay, Ray, and Joe. And together 10 years later we led our parents to Christ.

If you want to establish a Kingdom Culture in your family, STEP ONE (and this is the most important step of all), you need to get radically born-again, sold-out, and Spirit-filled for the King. You can't lead your family where you've never been yourself. But listen, once Jesus gets a hold of you, there is absolutely no stopping Him. In fact, do you know He wants this to happen more than you do? He's waiting for you to completely embrace His amazing love for you. And He can't wait to work through you so your entire family becomes the Kingdom of God on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Genesis chapter one describes this beautiful relationship between the Father and His children, Adam and Eve. The Garden of Eden is actually the Hebrew perspective of Heaven on Earth. Adam and Eve, mankind's first family, living under the loving sovereignty of the Father. Of course this is where we also first learn how the Serpent deceived Adam and Eve to SEVER their relationship with God and do their own thing, so they were cast out of Eden, cursed to live a severed life. Looking back on that story it is totally INSANE when you analyze what the Devil was able to do. In short the Serpent said if you eat the fruit you will be like God. But wait a second, they were already like God! Made in His image! So the Devil deceived them into sinning against God in order to get what they already had? Are you following this? It's a lot like Satan tempting Jesus in the wilderness: worship me and all these kingdoms will be yours. Jesus is already King of the Universe and rules over everything. God said in Genesis mankind was to take dominion over the whole world. So once again the Devil is trying to deceive Jesus into sinning against God in order to give Him what He already has. Can you see that when you live selfishly you are playing into the Devil's hands? In Christ you already have every Spiritual blessing. Don't let the Devil deceive you into thinking that he will give you what you want when you already have what you need through Christ our Lord. The Devil doesn't have either the power or the authority to make you like God or put the world at your feet. On the other hand

through Christ you become a new creation made in His image and you begin to take proper dominion over the Earth once again.

Jesus is more eager to establish His Kingdom Culture in your family than you are. It's what He had planned since Genesis and the beginning of Time. To the Church at Laodicea He said, "Behold I stand at the door and knock" (Revelation 3:20). In the first century the Christian Church met in homes. There would've been a godly family who lived the home. While we were in Israel we went to Capernaum where Peter's family is from. Jesus had Church in Peter's house and a huge revival broke out. People got saved and healed. Then from there the movement spread and Christians had fellowship in each other's homes. I wonder if God is calling us back to meeting in homes for a while. I have no idea when the school cafeteria will open again, and I'm told when they do, the restrictions are going to be super strict. We're over a year away from opening our new building. So welcome to "the new normal," as we all begin to reopen after quarantine.

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<<Part 4>>

When we first moved into our house around Christmas of 1991, one of the first things we did was dedicate our home to Jesus, for Him to use anyway He desired. We had Campus Life youth meetings here for years. When my best friend, Mark Olmos, planted a church called Faith Christian Fellowship, he started here in our house. Our next door neighbors, Art and Michelle, came to Christ in those early years. Then of course when New Hope Central Oahu first started we had lots of get-togethers here with leadership. There's no limit to what can happen when Jesus is King over your home. But here's the thing, those things didn't happen because someone asked us. Mona and I wanted our home to be used for God's glory.

Family. There's just no way to understate important family is to us. And there's no doubt that the absolute best version of your family is the Kingdom version--where Jesus is King over every person and every area of your household, establishing a Kingdom Culture. If your family has a Kingdom Culture then you guys will prefer God-speak over self-speak. You will see a dramatic change in the "God-I-you" dynamic of all your relationships, where each person is wonderfully connected to God and relating to others from the security and confidence of God's love. From the God-I-you created by a Kingdom Culture, you first see yourself as extremely valuable in the eyes of God, then you see others through the eyes of the Father. Parents do not see just their children in their current state of immaturity, but with all the potential and possibilities intended by the Father. A wife does not just see her husband's failures and shortcomings, but also God's promise that He who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it. And a husband does not see himself as just a breadwinner but a Spiritual leader bent on leaving a powerful Christian legacy for his family for generations to come. The opposite of a Kingdom Culture is the dark world, ruled by Satan, where every person thinks only of himself. This is where a family knows mostly fighting, arguing, selfishness, addictions, and despair.

Not long ago our amazing daughter-in-law, Jalee, sent a video of the grandkids reciting Scripture. We have other videos of the grandkids singing worship songs. We play these over and over. I cannot begin to describe for you how incredibly fulfilling it is to see a Kingdom Culture in our family. Our prayer is that this will continue generation after generation, for Evangeline and Judah's kids, and their children's children's children until Jesus comes back.

If you want your family to have a Kingdom Culture, then take step one: Make Jesus the undisputed King of *your* life. Don't worry about your spouse, your kids, or your parents. I'm talking about YOU. Become radically born-again, sold-out, and filled with the Spirit today. And then go to war FOR your family instead of going to war AGAINST your family. When Jesus becomes your King, then you've taken step one in Jesus becoming the King over the rest of your family.

Pray with me now with all your heart: Father in Heaven, thank you for Jesus. Jesus, I crown You as King of my life today. Make me a brand new person, born-again, sold-out, and filled with Your Spirit. Establish a Kingdom Culture in my house. Like Joshua declared over his family, "As for me and my house, we will serve the King of kings and Lord of lords." I repent, reject, and renounce all darkness in my life and in my family. All fighting, arguing, selfishness, addiction, and despair need to go NOW in the mighty name of Jesus. Lord Jesus, expel the Devil and his lies from my house! And I embrace for myself and my home Your Shalom Peace as Jesus, the Prince of Peace, takes residence in my house. Jesus, make our house Your home. Bring us to the place so that whatever Your will is for our house we will do! Your Kingdom come, Your will be done in our family as it is in Heaven. This I pray in the matchless Name of the One whose Name is above all other names--Jesus. And all God's children said, "Amen!" All my love and aloha to you and your whole family! Ahui hou, until next time. Love you guys!