



# **THE UNPREACHED GOSPEL**

## **THE UNPREACHED GOSPEL: LIFE IN THE KINGDOM**

Welcome back to our series entitled the Unpreached Gospel. If you've missed any of our previous messages in this series, check them out. We have learned that we live in an age that will one day pass away and with those who belong to Jesus, there is a promise of a future Kingdom – When the Kingdom of God comes in fullness. This earth no going be the same. There is gonna be a new heaven and a new earth. All creation, all living creatures no goin experience decay, corruption, no death. Going be like how was before Adam and Eve brought wrongdoing into the world. So no going get medical care professionals in the age to come, no goin have military, no need carry keys no moa, no goin get junk food fo eat, and I no think even goin get Disneyland, cuz every place going be the happiest place in the world! But the main difference in this age to come will be we'll know God fully because that future Kingdom will be about Jesus being our King. I hope you are you excited about the promise of this coming Age?

What I'll be focusing on today is yes, we know that eternal life is a future promise, something we all can look forward to, but is it also a present day reality, that you and me can experience here and now. Maybe not in the fullness of the age to come, but we'll learn we can experience some of the benefit of that eternal life now.

I'll start out with sharing with you about my journey to becoming a follower of Jesus. I've told this story many times. I did not grow up in a Christian home, so I didn't know about what would happen after this life. And that one uncertainty bothered me much, especially in my high school years. I didn't have any hope for what would happen to me after I die. It's not that I would think about this all the time, but in those moments at night before sleeping, I'd think, one day, I'll die and my existence would end. That thought scared me. But, you go sleep, wake up and you go about your business and just live for the moment. And that's what I did.

So when I got to college at UH, and this guy I did kolohe stuff with, rascal, waste time kine stuff with in a summer job, ran up to me and no joke, said, "Earl, I'm save now." Brah, what happened, you almost wen drown? No, I became a Christian. And then one conversation led to the next and I remember him sharing in one of those convos, he said Earl, if you believe in Jesus, he'll give you Everlasting Life. And I said, "I like that!"

So I said, believe in Jesus, and he said, yeah, and I said how, and he said, just pray, but I dunno how fo pray, so he said a prayer and I repeated it. And remember Pastor Mark sharing about his prayer for his grandma in Maui to receive Jesus. Well, my friend was like Pastor Mark for me. And I was 18 yrs old.

I remember attending his crazy emotional church, hand raising kine church almost like ours, an telling everyone, I'm saved. And if someone asked me saved from what? I dunno, but "I have everlasting life now."



# THE UNPREACHED GOSPEL

As I think back to when I made that decision, I saw Jesus as the Ticket Agent and the Bus Driver that would give me the entrance ticket to this future place, the guy who would drive me to that place. I was focused on what I'd get from this transaction, give the ticket to get there, focused on the place. And that's all that I wanted, the destination!

But I began this journey to get to know the Ticket Agent, the Bus Driver and that's what began to change my life.

It's like going to Hana from Kahului on Maui. Everyone says you gotta go Hana.

(Guidebooks say: expect the unexpected, prepare for many stops, enjoy the beauty along the way) How many of you have been to Hana? What's in Hana? A general store and Wai'anapana-pa State Park, Hana Bay, Hamoa Beach. But if you think the destination is the goal, you'll miss out on all the beauty along the way.

And so it is with Eternal life, yes it's an eventual destination, but it's starts once you get on the bus, begin the wonderful journey with who, the bus driver, Jesus, as he takes us on the winding road, scenic vistas, many stops of our lives, maybe get a flat tire or two. But, you are reminded as look at bus ticket and it says "Eternal Life Starts Now Tour", so open your eyes get to know the Bus Driver. Yeah, we'll eventually there, but it starts when NOW!

Everyone who goes to a Christian church knows what Jesus says in John 3:16, *"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life,"* (NLT).

There are 37 uses of Eternal life in what John writes in his writings. And in his letter in 1 John 5:11-13, John says this, *"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life,"* (NIV).

How many of you believe in the Son, Jesus Christ. Trust him? Then, tell the guy next you who is raising their hand, "You get eternal life" Tell the other guy, "I got eternal life"

BUT what really is eternal life? And when does that life start, after you mahke or can you experience some of that today.

I remember reading the bible one day in my earliest devos. And what I read changed my understanding of what eternal life was all about. What Jesus said blew my mind!

I read Jesus explanation of what Eternal life is. You like hear what he says about Eternal life? Let's read it from John 17:3, *"And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth,"* (NLT).



# THE UNPREACHED GOSPEL

I read it in my NIV translation and it said this, "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

And dis how DGASB tell um, *"Dis wat da kine life mean dat stay fo real kine foeva: dat da peopo dat get dat kine life, know you, da ony God dass fo real, an dat dey know me too, Jesus Christ, da Spesho Guy You Wen Sen."*

So what is eternal life according to Jesus? It's all about KNOWING JESUS, Knowing the Person, not necessarily a Destination.

**OG Discussion Q1: How has your understanding of Eternal/Everlasting Life changed from Jesus' definition of Eternal Life?**

And when you think about it, if eternal life was just a place that goes on and on forever, wouldn't you wanna know more about the quality of that life that goes on forever?

Now, when Jesus was living, we get a glimpse into seeing what he meant about eternal life when he called his 12 followers, when he picked them out. I'd like you to watch this video about Jesus selection of his 12 and what he called them TO DO. You gotta lissen good now.

Now, I goin show um in my language. Fo da peopo no undastand HP too good, just try understand. But the rest dat undastan Pidgin, try catch wat Jesus wen tell.

He tell, *"I like you guys stay by me. I like teach you guys. Laytas I goin sen you guys all ova da place, an den you guys goin teach da peopo. An I goin give you guys powa too fo make da bad kine spirits no bodda da peopo no moa,"*

*(Mark 3:14-15 DGASB).*

Other translations say, to accompany him, be with him, be my constant companions. Jesus wanted them to be continually at his side as his friends.

It's so easy to miss what Jesus number one purpose of his calling. Jesus could have continued his mass healing ministry, taught the crowds of people, created this mega church following of his day. But he was interested in something more. Yes, it's to teach about his Kingdom, do the miracle work of casting out demons or darkness that can blind us and put us in chains today. But lissen up, Jesus, calls you and me, first, to stay by him, be his constant companions. Hear me out, it's a call to know him. Does this makes sense? A call for his very presence to be with you, now, and in the age to come.

And there's a promise attached to this life. Because Jesus says, I came so that you'd have life to the max, life to the fullest. Jesus speaks about this in John 10:9-10, *"Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life,"* (NLT).

# THE UNPREACHED GOSPEL

Other translations say "a full and abundant life". It's a picture about the life we have with knowing Jesus. That life that is rich and satisfying. DGASB tell, "But I wen come fo da peopo come alive inside, an fo dem live to da max."

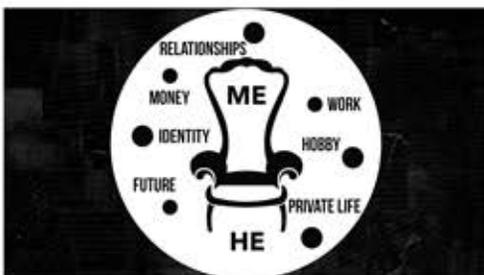
The picture Jesus is painting is a life inside his sheep pen. That's those who enter his kingdom. In other words, those who make him King. In this context. Jesus wants to be our shepherd and if he's the shepherd, then we are what? Sheep? Now, you know what kind animals sheep? In the animal kingdom, are they the smarter ones. Nope, sheep are pretty helpless, get a pee sized brain, and they need a shepherd to lead them. They can't protect themselves easily. They go with the flow jalike us! Jesus as the shepherd/King wants to lead us into that kind of rich and satisfying life in the here and now, even if in this age, where we'll face so much disappointments, dying, failures, heartaches, and hurts.

I'd like to show you a diagram of the kingdom of God.

1. You are outside the kingdom. But as we just read, Jesus is the gate, and through him you get access into the Kingdom. And there is a throne in the Kingdom and that throne should be where Jesus sits as the one in charge of us.

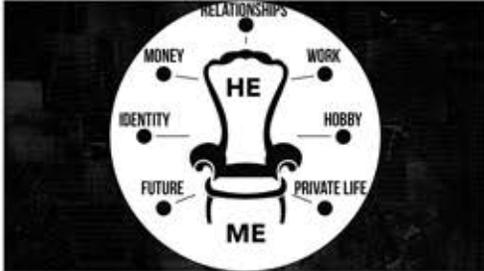


2. And our lives have different parts, go over each part. And the question is, is Jesus sitting on the throne in each part of our lives? Or are we sitting in that place of being in charge. That's the challenge of living a rich and satisfying life. Instead of allowing Jesus to be large and in charge by placing him on the throne. Who do we place on the throne. Yeah, it's "Me". And when we take control and relegate Jesus off his throne, we think we can order our lives well. Remember, what kind animals are we like? Sheep! Just think about your life being in charge. If you've lived long enough you'll see you've taken yourself in to some dead ends, gotten into trouble.



# THE UNPREACHED GOSPEL

3. You see Jesus wants his presence in all areas of our lives. He doesn't just want to be King, he wants to be your shepherd. You read the rest of John 10 and Jesus says in v. 3 - 4,



*"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice," (NLT).*

**OG Discussion Q2: In what areas of your life do you need to invite Jesus to be the King over and thereby experience his very presence?**

How has placing Jesus on the throne over a certain area of your life made a difference? Again, it's about knowing Jesus, and his presence in all areas of your life! King David expresses his heart for God's presence in this song in Psalms 27,

4 "One thing I ask from the Lord,  
this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord  
and to seek him in his temple.  
5 For in the day of trouble  
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;  
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent  
and set me high upon a rock.  
6 Then my head will be exalted  
above the enemies who surround me;  
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make music to the Lord," (NIV).

David's heart is for the very presence of God. Remember David is the King over Israel and he desires the very presence of God. That's our prayer for you as a staff, that you'd desire God's very presence in every area of your life and that's eternal life in the here and now.

I so wanna know Jesus, hear his voice, and have Him be in charge of and I be present with him in THOSE AREAS IN MY LIFE.



# THE UNPREACHED GOSPEL

You know by now my new hobby that I've gotten into from the beginning of Covid in 2019. When the government closed down the state, couldn't even go to the beaches, well, I said, I going out in the ocean then. And that's what I did. So I took up kayak fishing, what started in-shore, I graduated overnight to go offshore, miles out. And it's been a blast. Remember a couple months ago, I went out asked God to provide a yellow fin tuna for me to make poke, well that week I went out, God provided and we got to eat poke in church.

**This is my confession**, this kayak fishing at times has taken much of my energies and focus. I've been on the throne in this area. And it's easy to justify this. Oh I going catch fish to provide for the family, the fish running now so gotta go, I no can let my buddies go by themselves, they need me.

I'm already planning my next outing. And I'm feeling the A-ge disease. You know the A-ge? Some of you know um more than others. AGE. The A-Ge. I'm not in my 30s, 40s, and pretty soon, I won't say I'm in my 50s.

I gotta place Jesus on the thrown of my kayak fishing. I was reminded of this on a trip soon after I caught my 34 lb yellow fin, shibi. I went out a couple week later and was confident I goin catch one again and show everybody, how good I've gotten. You like see my amazing catch? I show you!

This was my Lesson: Earl as easily as I can provide you a shibi, it can be stolen away, eaten up by sharks if you no place me over your kayak fishing! If I don't allow your presence to fill me in every area of my life, the stealer might just come. God I want you to be in charge of this area & God I want your very presence in my life.

There will be sharks around your life that want to steal your joy, so allow Jesus to be very present in all areas of your life, allowing him to be in charge. What are your areas that God's presence needs to inhabit? Put him on the thrown and experience a satisfied and full life when you do so!

*(OG Discussion Q3: What are the sharks in your life trying to steal away to prevent you from having a rich, satisfying, and full life where everything is good inside?)*

Remember we live in this age. The age where we only see dimly, litto bit of what it will be like in eternity in the next age. In this age, we'll face hardships, disappointments, our old life and ways destroys us/let's us down, we face physical, emotional, relational setbacks? You guys know what I'm talking about, right? Some of you are facing them right now.

Are we willing to bring the presence of Jesus into that situation for him to carry us through that? Come to me all who are weary and heavy burdened and I'll give you rest. Take my yoke and place it your neck, for my yoke is easy and burden light. And learn from me. Hook yourself up to Jesus as the head ox, and when you do, he's right next to you, and you can hear his voice, allow him to carry you along!



# THE UNPREACHED GOSPEL

I wanna add commentary of what PMike shared last week about our property situation in Mauka. He shared how he didn't complain to the congregation, but took his complaint to the Lord. Well, I was subtly rebuked, scolded by God cuz I was "the old earl expletives were ready fo fly" For seven years, leading a team of guys to care for that maintenance of that property. Where you think I get my strong legs? From pushing that lawnmower! Each time I'd go I'd envision our home on the hill. And I'd talk to God doing that maintenance with a couple other faithful ones. The story can't end now. I put my blood sweat and tears into this. But God gently reminded me like PMike, it's about his presence. Haven't I've with you through it all? Haven't I been building your faith? Haven't you seen miracles happen to get this project going? Yes! Then, rest in me! God you've got it! I'll place you back on the throne in this area! And I'll be real good inside.

I was bummed out to cuz so many from the Mililani campus still haven't come back to services. One reason, it's not as convenient coming to Wahiawa. No mo good parking, get homeless around. For those of you here today, let's place Jesus on the throne in that Legacy of Hope project. God you settled us here in Wahiawa and this is a God Thing inasmuch as we see what will happen back in Mauka, this is a God Thing. We're one again! Let's experience all we can with the presence of the Lord here. Look at all the families that have made their home because we are here! Llantos, Aus, Warmans, Dunns to name a few!

What's eternal life? We can wait until we mahke, but we'll miss out on the journey of eternal life that starts NOW if we don't see that it's about knowing Jesus. It's about having Jesus be present in every part of our lives as King. You guys got it! Good!

Could you stand as we close as this is your time to respond to God and what he's spoken to you about today. I've spoken, but I hope more so, Jesus your shepherd king has spoke, the one who promises you eternal life, now and forever.

If you've never put your trust in Jesus, allowing him to be the gate for your entrance into his kingdom life, then it starts out with trusting him with your life, take the ticket but more so, take the person, that's Jesus.

And for others of you, maybe you're not experiencing that rich and satisfying life in some areas of your life? I ask you, is Me not He on the throne in your life? If it's "Me" then maybe that's the reason things are hamajang, buss up, no peace, in that area of your life. Well, take yourself off the throne and allow Jesus to sit as King over that area of your life. Surrender to him that area by allowing him to take control! And his presence will be with you so that we can sing out like King David, "This is what I seek that I may live in God's house, experiencing his presence in all areas of my life! WE JUST GOTTA OPEN OUR EYES of our heart, to see Jesus face to face in every area of our lives and thereby experience Eternal life here and now!

Pray! AMEN!