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**God's Window Display**  
**Exodus 19:6**

**Intro:** We are looking at the spiritual disciple of developing a Kingdom Focus. Having a good understanding of the Kingdom of God can be transformational enough to make big changes in your life. Of course the fullness of the kingdom will not happen until Christ returns to set up His Millennial Kingdom which will include a restored Israel. Until then, however, you and I can live in the kingdom now that is what Jesus was talking about when he said that He came, “... **that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**” Many Christians don't realize this “*abundant*” life because they don't have a firm understanding of kingdom living now.

To live in the kingdom will likely require you to alter your perspective on a lot of the things you do. It could cause a change in the city, state or even country you live in, or you may consider a job change, a change in the way you spend your free time, a change in the way you spend money it will certainly change the way you look at people.

Last week we looked at the King and His Kingdom people this week we are going to look at the King and His Kingdom purpose. Now I said kingdom purpose, singular, but in fact this purpose has three parts. A purpose is akin to marketing. If you were going to start your own business you would set the purpose for that business then you would begin to market your business based on that purpose.

Today we are going to look at the three things God desires from his Kingdom people to carry out His Kingdom Purpose. We will begin by looking at the last verse from last week's message and go from there.

**[Read Exodus 19:6/pray/dismiss Jr. Church]**

The 8 years we lived in Germany were some of the best years of our lives. We had a great church family and friends and we were able to experience something that few in our world ever have. I loved it in Germany...life seemed somehow slower there.

One indicator of that slower lifestyle was that every store in Germany would close around 6 pm every week night, they would close mid-afternoon on Saturday and very few if any were opened on Sunday's. Most of the stores were located in an area called the *Fussganger Zone*. The word *Fussganger* means pedestrian, there from a *Fussganger Zone* was Pedestrian Zone. These *Fussganger Zones* were nothing more than the street where all the stores were located being closed off so the people could go “window shopping”. I loved to walk in these zones in the evening, especially around Christmas time; there would be a little snow and every so often there would be a “chestnut” roasting cart where you could stop and get a glass of hot apple cider and some roasted chestnuts. I didn't much care for the chestnuts, all are are roasted buckeyes. But the smell of them roasting mixed with the smell of the hot apple cider was great. The locals would walk along these zones window shopping.

Of course all the store owners knew people would be out window shopping so they had their windows full of all the best and newest items they were selling. That often reminded me of the walk home from school when I was a kid in Monroeville. I would walk past *Barrett's Dime Store* after school and window shop then I would walk across the street to *Swain's Drug Store* and “window shop” there, they always had big containers of candy you could look at. Then I would turn the corner and walk past Wolf's furniture store and look in the window there at the new color TV's they had in their window. By the time I would get home I would tell mom all the things I “needed”. A new toy gun, a bag of candy and of course, dad needed to get us one of those new color TV's. Have you every window shopped? Has it every made you “want something” to the place that you thought you needed it? I used to wonder just how those owners knew exactly what I needed and were able to put them in the window. Now that I am older I know that they didn't know what I wanted nor needed all they new was what it took to get me to come in the store and buy something. It's called marketing today, back then it was simply window displaying.

Window displaying is an art that is still taught in marketing degrees. Even in e-commerce today they refer to the home page of a website as a widow display. Window displays are to be appealing, interesting and thought-provoking. In some ways God is the same as those store owners.

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He has called out a peculiar people to be his window display in order to draw people into His Kingdom. That is at the heart of His purpose for creating a Kingdom; to create a window display. Let's look at the three things God's people are to do to be part of God's Window Display.

***The first we are to do as God's Window Display For the Kingdom is to...***

**1. Embrace His Mission**

- A. God calls His people to be on missions with Him—to be His chosen instruments in drawing the nations of people to himself.
  - 1) The people there to showcase the One who was solely responsible for making them who they were—a kingdom of priests, a prized possession, a nation **set apart** by their relationship with the one true God.
  - 2) That was God's mission to ultimately redeem all nations/people to himself
  - 3) All they had to do was **Embrace the Mission**
- B. From the very beginning, it has been God's purpose to redeem fallen man
  - 1) When he said to Satan in the garden **"...I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel"** (Gen 3:15) he was warning Satan that someday his work there would be undone.
  - 2) From this point forward God's mission was clear to take away from Satan all the fallen souls that would freely follow him
  - 3) Man was his chosen instrument in accomplishing this mission
- C. Through Abraham he chose a people to be on mission with him
- D. From Abraham through the Egyptian bondage he worked to reveal himself to his people
- E. Beginning with Moses God then demonstrated that he would redeem those who were his.
  - 1) Then, there at the base of Mt Sinai he told them why, they were to be a **holy nation, a nation set apart, for his use.**
  - 2) He was in effect calling them to be his missionaries to the rest of the world.
- F. Even Solomon's Temple, designed as a place of worship, was intended to be used to draw the nations to the Lord
  - 1) David understood this before the temple was even built when he said in Ps. 86:9-10, **"All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone**
  - 2) Isa pictured all the nations running to Israel because of their God, **"...thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel..."** (Is 55:5).
- G. All along it was about the King's people making the stranger welcome into the kingdom.
  - 1) His people would experience the almighty power of their God and then share it with those around them
  - 2) But Israel wanted to keep it all for themselves—they would only share this relationship with those who became like them
  - 3) What we must understand however—Israel missed—missed that the blessings of the temple only there's
  - 4) Every blessing bestowed by God on his people is intended to have a global and eternal impact.
- H. This unique **"set apart"** status is what gives us our uncommon freedom in Christ.
  - 1) When God moves us in accordance with his eternal plan, he fills our lives with unexpected yet purpose-filled opportunity.
  - 2) When we serve the desires of the One who created and redeemed us, we are on missions with Him
  - 3) God had chosen Israel not because they were special as a nation but for them to be a showcase of his blessings.
    - (a) He wants to demonstrate to the world what living for Him can produce in people's lives
    - (b) The blessings he promised his chosen people were never intended to glorify Israel but to showcase his goodness so all the nations of the earth would be drawn to **him** through **them**
  - 4) Paul says basically the same thing to Timothy in 1 Tim 1:16 **"...for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.:"**
    - (a) Paul was not saved merely to receive God's blessing
    - (b) He was also saved to serve as a showcase of God's perfect patience

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- (c) Have you ever asked yourself why God saved you?
  - (d) He did it so you could be on mission with him being a showcase of just what we could do with a life totally sold out for him
  - I. God's blessings are given to be conveyed, not consumed
  - J. Kingdom people are promised the most rewarding, fulfilling, satisfying life on earth—but it comes at the cost of being willing to be different, conformed to the character of the One who calls us, and being on missions with him as he, through us draws people to himself
  - K. When God through Christ redeemed us out of bondage to sin
    - 1) We who are saved were given a great call—the call to showcase the Christ who has saved us.
    - 2) Showcasing Christ should be the ultimate expression of our worth
    - 3) Our lives were placed at the disposal of our Redeemer.
    - 4) This the heart of the Great Commission—for God's chosen people today to be on mission with him; being a window display:
      - (a) When Jesus said in Matt. 29:19-20, ***“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup>Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world”***
      - (b) He was/is inviting His **“set apart”** chosen people to be on mission with God.

**The Second Thing we are to do as God's Window Display For the Kingdom is to...**

**2. Embody His Name**

- A. God established a relationship with His people so they would represent His name, His character and His very nature to the world.
- B. After being told that he would not build God's house but his son would David says a prayer to God and it that prayer David says, ***“And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?”*** (2 Samuel 7:23)
- C. We have all heard of someone who set out to make a name for themselves.
  - 1) An athlete from a poor family who uses his talent to rise to the top of his sport
  - 2) We love to read stories about great businessmen who, through tireless skill and tenacity, have conquered the marketplace with their products—people like Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak
- D. In the end however, no matter how much fame and success flow from this kind of household name recognition, the payoff is never as satisfying as they thought it would be.
  - 1) Jobs had a power struggle with the board of directors at Apple computer and started a new business called NeXT only to have that company bought out by Apple 12 years later.
  - 2) Many a athlete have worked hard to rise to the top only to fall into disgrace or have to stop playing due to a career ending injury.
  - 3) In many ways those who set out to make a name for themselves get a lot less than they hoped for.
- E. When God chose to make a name for *Himself* through his people, he gave us everything we could want.
  - 1) Those who willingly embody the name of Christ in our lives, who seek to be known by our relationship to him, will enjoy a life that can never be found by those who seek a name for themselves
  - 2) All we have to do is be faithful in how we represent His name
- F. God takes his good name very seriously:
  - 1) In 2 Sam 7:23 he David tells us that he was using Israel to ***“...make him a name...”***
  - 2) In 1 Sam 12:22 he said that he would not abandon his people, not because they were worthy but because of, ***“...his great name's sake...”***
  - 3) After the defeat of Israel at Ai Joshua cries out ***“For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?”*** (Josh 7:9) Joshua understood that the defeat of Israel impacted not just the reputation of the nation but of the name of the Lord.
- G. 1 Kings 8:42 tells us, ***“For they shall hear of thy great name, and of thy strong hand, and of thy stretched out arm”*** it is his name reflected in us that will ultimately draw lost souls to him.

**The Final Thing we are to do as God's Window Display For the Kingdom is to...**

**3. Obey His Word**

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- A. God commands and expects the people with which He has established this relationship to **obey His Word** thereby producing a brand of holiness that demonstrates to all the world the noticeable difference He has made in their lives
  - B. Israel's problem was that at every turn they disobeyed God's Word and He did not take their disobedience lightly
  - C. Listen to what Ezekiel says, "**And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These are the people of the LORD, and are gone forth out of his land**" (Ez 36:20).
    - 1) God had chosen Israel from among all the other peoples of the earth to be his showcase people, redeeming them in order to make a name for himself, blessing them in order that others would see their righteousness and be drawn to their God.
    - 2) Isa said they were to be a "**...crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.**"
    - 3) Unfortunately they became, instead, a slap in God's face.
    - 4) This people, so uniquely blessed by almighty God, failed to live up to its divine potential.
    - 5) Rather than exalting his name among the nations, their actions profaned his name
    - 6) As a result of their disobedience, the pagan nation Babylon swooped down on his people and drove them like cattle into captivity.
  - D. Then the question was, what will the nations think about Israel's God now?
  - E. And for us, what do they think about our God today—by watching us?
  - F. We've all made promises we haven't kept—that is why any honest student of scripture can't look at Israel's history without seeing ourselves.
    - 1) I have heard many a Christians, me included, say things like, "How dumb were those Israelites, to turn their back on God after all he had done for them" they usually follow that with something like, "If God did for me everything He did for them I know I wouldn't forget"
    - 2) The problem is they and we do forget.
    - 3) We make a commitment in church on a Sunday only to forget it a few weeks later—sometimes we forget it before Monday is done.
      - (a) More than 35 people took the 2,500 challenge back in September but on any given Sunday there are only 4 or 5 of the accountability slips turned in.
      - (b) Manna comes and presents the need to feed children in foreign countries we make a pledge to give \$20.00 per month to feed one child but after less than a year that pledge is forgotten
      - (c) We make a Faith Promise commitment during the Missions Emphasis month in October but by Spring the promise is forgotten
    - 4) The list could go on; we promise to pray for someone but we forget to pray day after day.
  - G. We are not that much different from the people of Israel
    - 1) If they had only stayed faithful to their God
    - 2) Faithful to obey his word
    - 3) Theirs would have been a good life
    - 4) But that was not to be so off in to captivity they go—part of God's chastening
  - H. The cost of our disobedience
    - 1) It desecrates God's name
      - (a) Jeremiah says that disobedience is spiritual adultery—God even gave Israel a "**...a bill of divorce...**" because of their spiritual adultery
      - (b) They had rejected his law and failed to obey his voice so God scattered them...what a contrast—a nation destined to be sent among the nations for God's "**...name, and for a praise, and for a glory: but they would not hear**" Jeremiah says (13:11).
    - 2) When a Christian fails to obey he does the same thing.

**Conclusion:** We Christians are often guilty of Israel's failure. They failed to **Embrace God's Mission**—it was his desire the his people would be a window display to win worshippers from all the nations of the world. They failed to **Embody God's Name**—They turned the concept of the kingdom of God into the Kingdom of Israel. They failed to **Be Obedient to God's Word**—This was at the heart of their downfall.

Christians, churches regularly are found to be guilty of the very same failures...are you a inviting **Window Display For God?**