

CHAPTER 4 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: “THE MAJESTIC IN THE MUNDANE”

Seek First: How the Kingdom of God Changes Everything, by Jeremy Treat

1. On page 64, the author says, “The Kingdom is a vision for God's reign over all of life. God's reign begins in the human heart, but it doesn't end there. One day it will spread to the ends of the earth, and until that day, Jesus calls us to bring every aspect of our lives into submission to his gracious reign.”
 - How does the first part of the sentence, “The Kingdom is a vision for God's reign over all of life,” resonate with you?
 - Add one word to the sentence and see if it changes anything for you: *The kingdom is a vision for God's reign over all of your life*. What thoughts come to your mind when you personalize the sentence like this?

2. The author contends, “We may claim Jesus as king but then draw clear lines around his jurisdiction... We claim Christ as king, but we treat him like an accessory. Here's the truth: when we don't give *everything* over to Jesus, we're still the one who is in control. We act as our own king and then try to use Jesus to accomplish our goals” (p. 65).
 - Do you find it relatively easy to treat Jesus as an accessory to your life? If so, how so?

3. “What happens in the heart is determinative of the rest, so if Jesus gets your heart, he gets all of you. Jesus doesn't just reign *in* the heart, he reigns *from* the heart” (p. 67)
 - If Jesus is after our hearts, then what might it look like for you to give him your allegiance at the beginning of every day, that is, “to set apart Christ as Lord in your hearts” daily (cf. 1 Peter 3:15)?

4. On p. 70, the author says, “For many people today, work is a way of building our own kingdom and making a name for ourselves. The gospel frees us from looking to our work as a way of justifying ourselves and allows us to see work for what it was meant to be: a calling from God to use our gifts and abilities to serve others and our society.”
 - What does the author mean when he says “the gospel frees” us to look a work differently? How easy or hard is it for you to work from this gospel perspective in your work or study?

5. The author goes on in the rest of the chapter to discuss rest, play, food and art from a kingdom perspective. Did anything he say about any of these categories especially resonate with you?

6. What is your biggest takeaway from this discussion? What is the one thing you want to remember going forward?