



CELL GROUP MATERIAL

24 APRIL 2026

24 APRIL SERMON

Kingdom First

PASTOR TONY SUAREZ

Icebreaker Question: What's one thing you're currently juggling in life that feels overwhelming? (Allow members to share briefly, setting the stage for the sermon's main illustration)

Key Takeaways

1. The Kingdom Priority Principle

"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and then all these things shall be added unto thee." - Matthew 6:33

- Everything we need is found in God's kingdom
- We often try to get God to fix our problems before we prioritize Him
- Kingdom-first living means putting God before our circumstances

2. The Price of the Kingdom

"I will not offer to the Lord that which has cost me nothing." - 2 Samuel 24:24

- True blessing requires genuine sacrifice and consecration
- We cannot live on previous generations' prayers and dedication
- What we're willing to pay determines what we'll receive

3. Stay Focused on the Assignment

"What I'm doing for God is too important to be distracted." - Nehemiah 6:3

- Critics will always exist, but we must not come off the wall
- The work of building God's kingdom is too great to stop for arguments
- God's approval matters more than human criticism

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Understanding the Kingdom

1. **Pastor Tony illustrated carrying multiple burdens (drum, tissues, wallet, emotions).** What are the "burdens" you're currently trying to manage while also trying to seek God?
2. **Read Matthew 6:31-33 together.** Why do you think Jesus specifically mentions food, drink, and clothing as things we worry about? What are the modern equivalents of these worries?

3. **The sermon stated, "In the kingdom, you don't have to seek it. It's like you wear a magnet."** Have you experienced times when blessings seemed to be drawn to you? What was different about that season?
-

Section 2: Paying the Price

4. **Pastor Tony shared about his father's emphasis on hard work and not accepting "Mr. Lucky" victories.** How do you balance receiving God's grace with the biblical principle of paying a price for kingdom blessings?
 5. **The Azusa Street revival came after 10 days of prayer and fasting.** What would it look like for our group/church to pay that kind of price today? What obstacles would we face?
 6. **Discuss this quote: "You will never have what they had if you don't do what they did."** What practices from previous revival generations are we missing today?
-

Section 3: Giants in the Promised Land

7. **Pastor Tony wasn't expecting to find new battles in his "promised land."** Why does God sometimes allow giants and challenges even when we're in His will?
 8. **Read Judges 3:1-2 (about God leaving nations to teach warfare).** How does this change your perspective on current difficulties you're facing?
-

Section 4: Dealing with Distractions

9. **The sermon mentioned "Sanballats and Tobias" - critics who distract from kingdom work.** Have you experienced criticism when trying to do something for God? How did you respond?
 10. **Pastor Tony said, "It's easier to criticize than to do."** Are there areas where you've been more critical than active? How can you shift from critique to contribution?
 11. **What does it practically look like to say, "I will not come off this wall" in your current assignment from God?**
-

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge: Choose One

Option 1: The Kingdom First Audit

- Each day this week, before making decisions (spending money, scheduling time, responding to situations), ask: "Am I seeking the kingdom first in this?"
- Journal your observations

Option 2: The Consecration Commitment

- Commit to 30 minutes of prayer daily for the next 7 days
- Fast one meal and use that time to seek God's kingdom
- Ask God to reveal one area where you need to "pay the price"

Option 3: The Nehemiah Response

- Identify one criticism or distraction trying to pull you off your "wall"
 - Write out your "Nehemiah response" - why what you're doing for God is too important to stop
 - Share it with an accountability partner
-

Group Activity: The Magnet Exercise

Materials needed: Paper, pens

1. On one side of the paper, write "Kingdom Principles I'm Living" (prayer, fasting, tithing, worship, holiness, etc.)
 2. On the other side, write "Blessings I'm Believing For"
 3. Share with the group: What kingdom principle do you need to strengthen to attract the blessing you're seeking?
-

Reflection Questions for Personal Time

- Where am I building my own kingdom instead of God's kingdom?
 - What would it cost me to truly put the kingdom first?
 - Am I living on someone else's spiritual inheritance, or am I paying my own price?
 - What critics or distractions do I need to ignore to complete my assignment?
-

Prayer Points

Pray together for:

1. **Kingdom Establishment** - That God's kingdom would be established in our lives, families, and nation
 2. **Supernatural Encounters** - For fresh experiences with God, not just living on past testimonies
 3. **Freedom from Distraction** - Deliverance from critics, comparison, and anything pulling us from our assignment
 4. **Harvest of Blessing** - That as we seek first the kingdom, all we need would be added to us
 5. **Revival** - For an Azusa Street-level outpouring in our generation
-

Closing Thought

"If you'll pay the price of the kingdom, then you will receive the rewards of the kingdom. For the kingdom of God is not just the benefits and the blessing, but it's the consecration and the sacrifice."

Question to carry into the week: *What is God asking me to sacrifice so I can experience His kingdom in fullness?*