

Assignment Title: Reading Report #1

Kingdom Journeys / by Seth Barnes

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“Kingdom Journeys” is a book written by Seth Barnes that explores the concept of living a life of purpose and adventure as a Christian. The purpose of pilgrimage is to experience more of God while on a physical journey. By abandoning the comforts of routine and lifestyle at home, we can discover new truths about God, the world, and ourselves. To find our true identity and to grow in faith, we leave the physical comforts behind to allow God to transform us from the inside. Barnes put a lot of emphasis on making sure the pilgrimage is kingdom focused and not just a vacation or humanitarian effort. By bringing the reader back to Luke 10, he inspires us to follow what the disciples did by getting out of their comfort zones and depending solely on God to provide as they brought the Kingdom of God wherever they went. Many of us feel restless and we don’t know why. Barnes helps us realize that restlessness is not a curse, but a gift and a calling to follow God on a kingdom journey that will change our lives and those we encounter.

This book has made me aware of the restlessness that I’ve been feeling for a couple years. I’ve been looking for a boost that will take my faith to the next level and I believe a kingdom journey is exactly what I need. I’ve learned so much through ATS and my own studies, but I’ve had this holy discontent that there is so much more. Abandoning my comforts and facing my brokenness on the road is where I believe dependency on God will grow. I’m grateful for all the courageous stories presented in Barnes’ book as it gives real life examples of people discovering their purpose through the trials that kingdom journeys bring. Most of the examples are younger men and women but Barnes doesn’t let older parents off the hook by calling people of all ages to partake on a kingdom journey.

I have been practicing the classical spiritual disciplines to experience more of God’s presence and to be transformed by Him. It’s been a slow pace in my own estimation, but I believe a kingdom journey is what can accelerate my walk with God. I love to be alone with God

in contemplation but struggle to carry the kingdom into the public sphere. By intentionally going on a kingdom journey, I believe God will lead me into greater depths of knowing Him and myself. “At some point in our lives, we are all called into the unknown. We have a choice: to ignore the call or obey it. If we are obedient, we will find ourselves wholly depending upon God, but it will not be easy. And it will be anything but comfortable.”<sup>1</sup> I believe God is calling me and I’m ready to abandon my comforts to seek Him.

I agree most with Barnes’ point about learning to depend on God and how it’s more difficult when life is comfortable. He encourages the reader to go on a kingdom journey, “that requires you to abandon everything. With no other resources, you are forced to depend on the Lord to come through in miraculous ways. At the point where God is all you have, he will become all you need. Through this process, you will learn to listen to his voice and obey.”<sup>2</sup> This is what I desire! The one thing I wish Barnes talked about more was the pairing of the other spiritual disciplines with a kingdom journey. It would have been good for Barnes to write a chapter exploring this.

I believe God has spoken to me throughout this book and I’m very grateful. It has widened my perspective on Jesus’ ministry on earth and his call to the twelve disciples to be on the move. We are to go and make disciples of all nations, not stay and become comfortable. I will go experience my own kingdom journey soon and will experience God’s faithfulness. Then I will tell others to go and do something similar. Too many Christians are experiencing stagnation in their faith, this could be the answer.

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<sup>1</sup> Barnes, Seth. *Kingdom Journeys: Rediscovering the Lost Spiritual Discipline* (Ashland Press, 2012), 65.

<sup>22</sup> Barnes, Seth. *Kingdom Journeys: Rediscovering the Lost Spiritual Discipline* (Ashland Press, 2012), 140.

With integrity, I have read this book (circle one):

Thoroughly and Entirely—\_\_\_\_%

Quickly but Completely—\_\_\_\_%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely—\_\_\_\_%

Quickly and NOT Completely—\_\_\_\_%

Not at all

Signed: Chase Barbe

## Bibliography

Barnes, Seth. *Kingdom Journeys: Rediscovering the Lost Spiritual Discipline* (Ashland Press, 2012).