

The Kingdom of God- Part II

- * We often hear ourselves and others refer to “The Kingdom of God.”
- * I am convinced that we are simply parroting a religious word without actually knowing what we are saying!
- * What is the kingdom of God?
- * In most instances in the New Testament the original word for “kingdom” is basileia.
- * It means sovereignty, royal power, dominion!
- * In short, the Kingdom of God is the “sphere of God’s rule!”
- * This causes the Lord’s prayer to be an even more powerful prayer:

Matthew 6:10 (NIV)

10 Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
(Father, Your sovereignty, royal power and dominion be done on earth!)

- * Notice how that changes the feel of that prayer! It invokes God!
- * We are asking for God’s sovereign will, His divine power and dominion to cause our lives, circumstances and situations to reflect His perfect will!
- * With that said, let’s begin a journey of discovering The Kingdom of God.

I. Throughout the gospels we see it said that, “Jesus went about preaching the Kingdom of God!”

Luke 4:43 (NIV)

43 But he said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.”

A. There is a MESSAGE of the Kingdom:

Matthew 4:17, 23 (NIV)

17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”
23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

1. The message is simple: God has made provision through His Son Jesus, The Word made flesh, The second Adam, The Perfect Sacrifice and First Born from the Dead!
2. Remember, as we read and study scripture concerning The Kingdom of God, we began to see that it is God’s desire to redeem, renew and restore His creation!
3. What we call “The Lord’s Prayer” is simply our participation in this process!

B. One of the greatest challenges as a believer is staying focused

on the things of The Lord! Not becoming distracted by life!

Matthew 25:1-5 (NIV)

1 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

1. There are as many interpretations of this scripture as there are interpreters!!!
2. I’m sure there is more to it than my simplistic statement; but, it seems to be an encouragement to stay focused, prepared and life prioritized!!!

C. Jesus said things like:

Matthew 6:31-33 (NIV)

31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 11:12 (ICB)

12 Since the time John the Baptist came until now, the kingdom of heaven has been going forward in strength. People using force have been trying to take the kingdom.

Matthew 19:13-14 (ICB)

13 Then the people brought their little children to Jesus so that he could put his hands on them[a] and pray for them. When his followers saw this, they told the people to stop bringing their children to Jesus. 14 But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me. Don’t stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people who are like these children.”

Mark 4:30-32 (NIV)

30 Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. 32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

Luke 17:20-21 (NIV)

20 Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, 21 nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is in your midst.”

John 18:36 (NIV)

36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

II. The MESSAGE of the Kingdom points toward an ACT of the Kingdom!

A. If we pay attention to the message of the Gospel, we see the methodical work of God in Christ restoring His Kingdom to us!

1. At the precise moment God's will desired it, all was restored!

Romans 5:6 (NIV)

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

2. And this is what happened!

Romans 6:22 (NIV)

22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

3. And this is how it was accomplished!!

1 John 3:8 (NIV)

8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

B. And this is what has now happened and what is continually happening!

1. This is what our hearts should yearn for all our reborn lives!!!

Acts 3:19-21 (NLT)

19 Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. 20 Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. 21 For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets.

2. When Jesus announced and preached that the Kingdom of Heaven had come near... was He preaching the:
Good Views or the Good News?

Matthew 4:17 (NIV)

17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Mark 1:14-15 (NIV)

14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15
“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good
news!”