

Seeking The Kingdom of God #1

Q: What does the Kingdom of God mean to you... or how has the idea of the Kingdom of God affected the way you think and live?

- The Kingdom of God was the central message of John the Baptist ([Matt. 3:1-2](#)), Jesus ([Luke 4:43](#)), and the apostles ([Matt. 10:5-7](#)).
- The Kingdom of God is the center of the story in the Old Testament too! ([Ex. 19:5-6](#))
- Since the Kingdom of God seems to be at the center of the Bible, our understanding of the Bible might be a little “off center” if we don’t understand His Kingdom. ([Mark 4:11,13](#))

Read [Matt. 6:33](#)

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Q: Jesus gives a promise here. What is it?

- The promise: “...*all these things will be given to you as well.*”
 - [Matt. 6:31-32](#) “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.”
 - Everything you need will be given to you, so you don’t have to worry about providing for yourself.

Q: Jesus gives a condition here. What is it?

- The condition: You must “seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness.”
 - Have you ever sought something “first?” If so, what was it? And what did “seeking it *first*” look like?
 - Jesus is asking us to seek His Kingdom like we have sought other things—with ALL our heart, “not half-hearted.”

Q: What is Jesus telling us about the Kingdom of God in this verse?

- How many things do you worry about every day? How many of those things are out of your ability to control? How would you like to have only one thing to worry about, and be able to control that one thing?
- The Kingdom of God is a place where all you have to worry about is pleasing the King... He takes care of everything else!
 - He may not give us everything we want, but He will give us everything we need.

Q: Jesus has told us **how** He wants us to pursue the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and **why** we are to pursue them; but what are they? What do you think “**His righteousness**” is?

- The Greek word for righteousness is “Dikaiosyne,” which means “fair and equitable dealing or justice.”
- The English word “righteousness” comes from the Old English word “rightwiseness” which means “right + wise”, or “right and wise way of doing things.”
- God’s righteousness is doing things the way God says is right and wise.

Q: What do you think the kingdom of God is?

- The word Jesus used when He said, “kingdom”, was the Greek word “**basileia.**”
 - It means “*region or country governed by a king.*”
 - The Kingdom of God, then, is a nation or kingdom where God is the King!

The whole Bible is really about God bringing His rule and reign to the earth... so you can be a part of His Kingdom.

- God has always wanted to provide you with a place where you could experience life... the way He wanted it to be from the beginning—where you could have this relationship with Him and fulfill the purpose He created you to fulfill.
- Originally, God wanted that to look like the Garden of Eden. You can read about His original design in the first couple chapters of Genesis.
- But His Kingdom – His plan for mankind – was attacked by Satan.
 - Satan seduced Adam and Eve, and got them to sin.
 - When sin entered the world, everything got weird in a hurry.

- Instead of paradise, mankind was, and still is, trapped in a world God never wanted for us.
- But God didn't give up and abandon us to Satan and his evil plans for us;
 - God brought His Kingdom back to the earth through Jesus, so we could choose for ourselves if we wanted to be in His Kingdom of not.

Read Matt. 13:44-46

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."

- "The Kingdom of God" and "the Kingdom of Heaven" are the same.

Q: Who do you think the man in these two parables might be?

- Just before Jesus told the parables of the treasure and the pearl, He explained the parable of the weeds.
 - In the parable of the weeds, Jesus said He was the man who sowed good seed (**vs. 37**), and the field was the world (**vs. 38**.)
 - It seems likely Jesus was still picturing the world as the field, and Himself as the buyer.

Q: If Jesus is the man pictured in these parables, what does it tell you about His Kingdom?

- Jesus wants us to know how valuable the Kingdom is to Him; how much he was willing to pay to be your King.
- Jesus wants us to seek the Kingdom the way He has!
 - Lots of people would be willing to seek the Kingdom of God if they could do it on their terms, but Jesus wants us to seek His Kingdom on His terms.
- The Kingdom cost Him everything and it will cost you everything too!
 - Jesus thought it was worth it... and you will too!

Read Luke 16:16

"The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it."

Q: What does Jesus mean when He says people are "forcing their way into" the Kingdom of God?

- Whatever else He may mean, its clear He's telling us that getting into the Kingdom of God takes some personal effort.
 - If you decide to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, you can expect it to cost you everything you have, and for it to be difficult at times.
- You will face all kinds of opposition, but if you really believe what Jesus says, then that opposition won't do anything to you but strengthen your resolve.
 - Believing what Jesus says, is called 'having faith'.

Read Heb. 11:6

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Q: What is faith, and what role does it play in seeking the Kingdom of God?

- Faith is having a high opinion of God.
 - **Heb. 11:11** "And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise."
- Faith is judging God to be willing and able to do what He says.
 - Faith pleases God because it means you believe what He says, and that you will seek His Kingdom first (**Matt. 6:33**), or earnestly (**Heb. 11:6**).

SUMMARY:

Hopefully, when you consider what we've talked about in this study, you'll decide that pursuing the Kingdom of God and His righteousness is not only the right thing to do, it's the only thing that's really worth doing. After all, who else would you really want to be your King? Who else has the ability to meet your needs the way Jesus can? Who else could do a better job of guiding your life and making it count for something?

In our next study, we are going to look at why the Kingdom of God is called the Gospel, or Good News; and what makes it worth your total obedience and loyalty to the King. Before you start that study, please do reread the verses in this 1st study – in context – and decide for yourself if I've taught them accurately or not. Also, before going to the next study, read **Acts 8:26-40**, the story of the Ethiopian Eunuch. He's a great example of someone who sought the Kingdom of God.

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