

The Kingdom of Heaven Is Here:
Matthew 3:1,2; 4:17

Introduction:

Do we think of heaven more as “place” to be some day than a kingdom that is already here and valid in our world today?

Luke 17:20-21

To repent: to change your mind; think differently, especially in the inner man in regard to the acceptance of the will of God.

Since we are raised in this world, its ways, fears and desires are engrained in our physical being. This is all we know until through repentance and conversion our passions change. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Do our lives indicate that we have our hopes based in another world?

I. How do we enter this kingdom?

John 3:3; Matthew 18:1-4

See = see, look upon, experience, perceive, discern, beware.

Matthew 6:33; Matthew 13:44

Since Jesus saved you, have you ever asked, “What did he save me to do?” What have I been apprehended for? (Philippians 3:12)

I am all in? I have set my mind on his kingdom because I’ll live there forever!

II. What does the kingdom consist of?

The kingdom has a king; it has the laws (desires) of the king; it has citizens of the kingdom.

Being a part of this kingdom is a privilege, an honor. It is not about me, it is all about Him. How can I please the King?

John 14:15; John 15:10; 1 John 5:3-4

There is great trust and reliance upon the king and what He has done and promised.

He answers prayers to increase not only our faith but our asking.

1 Corinthians 13:11; Hebrews 6:1, 9, 12

We are called to maturity so we can handle great responsibility and do the will of the King, not only/always asking what He can do for us.

Too often it's about me, not about Him and others. Self-interest has put on church clothes and now God should help me with what I want.

III. There is an invitation to be a part of something eternal!

Matthew 6:19-21

How do we store treasures in heaven? How do we overcome our selfishness that is NOT a part of the kingdom of heaven?

Matthew 25:34-40

Those in the kingdom do not worry about material things, rather they have a distant gaze into the heavenly realms where knowing they will live there forever.

Living in the kingdom is a blessed life! Unlike Abraham asking for Ishmael to be blessed and Esau (the flesh) crying out to be blessed, those who follow the rule of the kingdom are blessed.

Jesus' sermon on the mount in Matthew 5,6 & 7 illustrate the commands and the secrets of this kingdom.

The kingdom seeker is mission minded here at home or abroad. What he owns are temporary possessions at the disposal of the king.

Luke 6:31-34; Hebrews 11:13-16

The redeemed are the Lord's reward for his suffering, death and resurrection.

Our reward, along with escaping hell's fire, is joining in the work of the kingdom of heaven!

Discussion Starter Questions for Home Groups

1. As a Christian which statement is true, “You’re so *heavenly minded* that you’re no earthly good. Or, You’re so *earthly minded* that you’re no heavenly good.”
2. Discuss the word “repent” and what it meant when John the Baptist declared that the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
3. It’s wonderful to be saved from hell. Discuss how since being redeemed we now have the potential to operate in a new kingdom with different laws, rewards and callings.
4. Child like asking. Read 1 Corinthians 13:11. Is there a time when we should “raise the bar” or think differently when it comes to asking God in prayer? Can answered prayer lead to greater petitions and greater purposes that will effect eternity? Read Psalm 2:8-12.
5. Do many of us and the church world today go to God and ask for help and/or blessings in areas that are “self-interest”? Read James 4:3-4; Luke 9:23-25.
6. Discuss the blessing syndrome. Discuss how Abraham wanted God to bless Ishmael and how Esau disregarded his birthright but then begged to be blessed anyway (Read Hebrews 12:15-17).
7. Does God bless “fleshly” efforts? Read Galatians 4:22-31. Discuss verse 30.
8. In Matthew 5 and Luke 6 the words “blessed are” are repeated over and over. Discuss how living by kingdom principles is living in God’s blessing without having to ask for them.
9. Jesus explained that the Kingdom of Heaven is like finding a treasure and giving our all to find it. Honestly discuss whether our hearts are more attached to this world and what we can see or the present spiritual kingdom of heaven. Which one is more real to us?
10. Talk about the privilege to be called into something much bigger than our own agenda and how it will affect everything in our lives.

