

## The Tale of Two Kingdoms 1

**Matthew 6:33** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Jesus told us to seek first the Kingdom of God. Yet so little is said of it or taught about it nowadays how could one seek it at all? Let alone make it their top priority.

Our goal over the next few weeks is to learn all we can about the Kingdom of God. And learn to make it our top priority in life. Why? Because Jesus said so, that's why.

Kingdom = A king or queen's realm of rule, authority, and influence.

Therefore, the Kingdom of God is the reach of God's rule, authority, and influence. You might say then that God's Kingdom is everywhere because God's reach is endless, His authority cannot be topped, and there is no one more influential than Him. Although those three statements are true, God's Kingdom is not everywhere for there are two kingdoms. And these two kingdoms are battling for reach, rule, authority, and influence every day.

We will talk more about the other kingdom in coming weeks but today I want to focus on the Kingdom of God

## The Importance of the Kingdom from God's Point of View

In the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus said, seek first the Kingdom of God, He mentions the Kingdom of God 8 times directly and once implicitly. Is there any question what the main subject of the sermon was? He taught many things on that day like be salt, be light, giving, praying, fasting, not to worry, but always kept coming back to the Kingdom culminating with the statement seek first the Kingdom of God. Teaching us that our focus should be on the Kingdom. Could it be that being salt and light, giving, praying, fasting, not worrying is a life of one who is living in the Kingdom of God?

A lot of times we get so busy with the things of God, sometimes we forget the simplicity of just knowing God. There is a King, He has a Kingdom. We are to seek Him and the Kingdom first before anything else.

**Matthew 4:17** From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**Matthew 4:23** And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

**Luke 4:43** but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."

**Luke 9:59-60** To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

**Acts 1:1-3** In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

I could have included 8 other scriptures where Jesus said he was sent to preach the Kingdom of God or sending His disciples to preach the Kingdom of God

This does not include 5 other scriptures in the book of Acts where the Apostles said they were sent to preach the Kingdom of God. That's a total of 18 scriptures where Jesus or the Apostles specifically said they were sent to preach the Kingdom of God. Why? It is the preaching of the Kingdom that releases the power of God on Earth.

**Amos 3:7**

"For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets."

## The Reality of the Kingdom of God

If we could just begin look behind the curtain of the seen into the realm of the unseen. We would see a battle for the ages. If we could then see how our actions and behaviors and especially our words influence that battle we would begin to live righteously, and learn and declare the word of God and pull out of the unseen the victory that is ours.

We walk through this earth oblivious to the Kingdom but God not only said it was an important part of who we are and what we do but it is the primary thing that must be sought first before all else.

I want you to leave here today understanding the reality of the unseen Kingdom of God. Not only the reality of it. But the realization that you are a vital part of bringing that Kingdom to Earth.

## Pulling Back the Veil

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Looking back at Matthew 4:17 Jesus preached that the Kingdom is at hand. Literally translated that the Kingdom of God is within your reach. The Kingdom of God is within your reach.

Luke 11:32

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

So, the next time the devil says it's impossible just reach out and pull back the curtain and bring the unseen to earth. The next time he says you can't do this, or you're not worthy to do that. The next time he tells you no, there's no way, there's no deliverance, that you are going under, just reach out and pull back the curtain and expose him to the King. The Kingdom is within reach!