



Exploring the Kingdom in Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom

Matthew 4:17-25

Purpose: To receive Kingdom encouragement and Kingdom strength from Matthew's gospel; from The Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7) to the Olivet Discourse (Matt 20).

THOUGHTS ON MATTHEW AND THE KINGDOM

- This Gospel was likely written by Matthew (or Levi).
- One of the more interesting things about his Gospel is his mention of the word "Kingdom" in over 50 verses.

THE NATURE OF KINGDOM

- The word kingdom means, in this context, "the territory or country subject to a king; also the inhabitants or population subject to a king."
- Jesus Christ is King! We state unequivocally that Christ rules and he is Lord and Lord of all!

THE KINGDOM AND CONFLICT

- Conflict always accompanies kingdom!
- The breaking in of the Kingdom of God (preaching, teaching, healing) always results in conflict with the kingdom of darkness.

THE GOSPEL/GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM

- The Gospel of the Kingdom is first and foremost that Jesus Christ is the King and Messiah, the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world. (Jn 1:29)
- Jesus' Kingdom has a "right now but not yet" quality to it. The Kingdom is coming, **but the Kingdom is also NOW because the Church is in (but not of) the world.**

PERSONAL DEVOTION/FAMILY WORSHIP QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

1. Do you really think of yourself as a kingdom citizen; as belonging to "another country" ruled by a Holy King?
2. Many believers live in depression, fear, anxiety, and other maladies because they don't know who they are in relation to who HE is.
3. How do you think your perspective and your attitude would shift if you saw yourself as a member of Christ's kingdom?

4. Have you taught your children that Christ is THE King? Are you equipping them to teach, preach, and live out the Gospel of the Kingdom?
5. Are you preparing your family for “Kingdom conflict?”

Catechism

Question: What does every sin deserve?

Answer: Every sin deserves God's anger and curse, both in this life and in the life to come.