

SPECIAL SERMON: "The Treasure of the Kingdom"

INTRODUCTION

- The Bible is about the **kingdom of God**.

"The Kingdom of God is, in a certain and important sense, the grand central theme of all Holy Scripture. . . The concept of the Kingdom of God involves, in a real sense, the total message of the Bible." (Alva McClain, The Greatness of the Kingdom)

"The kingdom is a thread that runs from the first chapter of the Bible through the last." (Michael J. Vlach, He Will Reign Forever: A Biblical Theology of the Kingdom of God)

Survey of the Theme of the Kingdom:

- Genesis 1:26 – Man was to have **dominion** over all the earth.
- Genesis 17:6 – "I will make you into nations, and **kings** shall come from you."
- 2 Samuel 7:12-13 – The offspring of David was promised an **eternal kingdom**.
- Daniel 2:44 – "And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a **kingdom** that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the **kingdom** be left to another people.
- Revelation 22:3-5: A description of the **eternal kingdom**: "they will reign forever and ever."

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN CAN BE FOUND (MATTHEW 13:44)

- The gospel of Matthew opens with a presentation of the **kingdom**.

Matthew 3:1-2 – "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

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

- The term **at hand** means that the king was nearby. After 400 years of prophetic silence, there was an immediate, present aspect to the kingdom!
- The Jews thought that the kingdom was merely ethnic. They didn't understand why the call was for them to **repent** because they thought they were members of that kingdom.
- **Matthew chapter 13** is about the kingdom of heaven. Jesus spoke in parables so that some would understand and some wouldn't.
- Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a **treasure hidden in a field which a man found**.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS WORTHY OF EVERYTHING (MATTHEW 13:44)

- "in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.": this man has so much joy over the treasure that nothing he had before matters.
- The kingdom of heaven can be found and it is far greater than any treasure you could find on this earth.
- **Application:** Becoming a Christian means that you will yield to God as the ruler over your life.

Sermon Application Questions

August 11, 2019

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

Reflect on the theme of “treasure” for a moment. In your childhood, what was your most treasured possession? What lengths would you have gone to in order to protect your possession?

What are some of the types of things that people “treasure” today? How do people behave towards the things that they treasure?

2

We notice that the man in the parable in Matthew 13:44 didn't just sell all that he had to gain the treasure. He sold all that he with an attitude of joy. John Piper comments, “The kingdom of God is so valuable that losing everything on earth, but getting the kingdom is a happy-tradeoff.”

What are some of the things that you have given up in order to be faithful to Jesus Christ? Are you able to count these sacrifices a “joy”? Why or why not?

DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week's sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

Matthew 6:33

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

Matthew 13:45-46

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Matthew 19:21-22

Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Luke 19:8-10

And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Acts 5:41

and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

Philippians 3:7-9

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ,

2

Read Matthew 6:9-15. This familiar passage teaches us the Lord’s prescribed pattern for prayer. Why do you think that this prayer begins with a focus on the kingdom of God in verse 10? Notice that this focus comes *before* praying for our own needs (v.11-15).

Evaluate your own prayer life in light of this pattern. What are some ways that you can make God’s kingdom a greater focus and theme of your prayers?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1

In his commentary on Matthew, John MacArthur defines the concept of “the kingdom” as “God’s kingly rule over the hearts of men.” He distinguishes between the following ways the term “kingdom” is used in Scripture:

Kingdom	Definition
1. The Prophesied Kingdom	• The kingdom that was foretold by Daniel.
2. The Interim Kingdom	• The “mystery form” of the kingdom that resulted because of Israel’s rejection of her King.
3. The Manifest Kingdom	• The Millennial Kingdom in which Christ will rule physically and directly upon the earth.
4. The Eternal Kingdom	• The eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We live in the “mystery form of the kingdom” which precedes the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. This means that there is a present aspect to the kingdom as well as a future aspect to the kingdom.

How does an understanding of God’s kingdom plan inform our hope as Christians? How can you use this understanding to bless or encourage a weary soul this week?

2

R.C. Sproul has written, “it is the task of the church to make the invisible kingdom visible. We do that by living in such a way that we bear witness to the reality of the kingship of Christ in our jobs, our families, our schools, and even our checkbooks, because God in Christ is King over every one of these spheres of life.”

Is there an area of your life that you are struggling to lay aside for the sake of the kingdom in your life? Perhaps take this as an opportunity to saturate that area in prayer, and ask others in the church to pray along with you.

My Application: _____