

January 25, 2021

Welcome to the Kingdom

Matthew 4:12-25

The Kingdom of God both **FUTURE** and **PRESENT**.
Matthew 4:12-17 /

- The Kingdom of Heaven is not just **LATER** ... it's **NOW**.
- Heaven is a **PLACE** and a .
- The King's **RULE** and **REIGN** determines his kingdom.

A citizen of the Kingdom (**DISCIPLE**) is called to:
Matthew 4:18-22

- **FOLLOW**
- **LEAVE BEHIND**
- **A MISSION**

Final Thought:

God has **invaded planet Earth**.

Life Group Questions

- 1) Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
- 2) The disciples had previous interactions with Jesus which prepared them to respond to this life-changing invitation to "follow me." Can you think of one or two significant encounters you had with Jesus or a Christian that influenced your decision to follow Jesus?

DIGGING DEEPER

This weekend we discussed what the "kingdom of Heaven" is. The term "kingdom of God/heaven" is used over 100 times in the Gospels. In Matthew 13, Jesus tells several parables to help us understand what the "kingdom of Heaven" is like. As you read Matthew 13:24-52, mark up the passage and then answer the questions below it.

1. **Circle / highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
2. **Underline** the verse(s) you see as most important to remember.
3. **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

The Parable of the Weeds

24 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. **25** But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. **26** When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

28 "An enemy did this,' he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

29 "No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn."

The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

31 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. **32** Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

33 He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

34 Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. **35** So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

"I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."

The Parable of the Weeds Explained

36 Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

37 He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. **38** The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, **39** and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

40 "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. **41** The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. **42** They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **43** Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

44 "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 Parable of the Net

47 "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. **48** When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. **49** This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous **50** and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.

- 3) What do you learn about the kingdom of Heaven from these parables?
- 4) Matt talked about the here and now and the not yet nature of the kingdom of God. How do you see these parables revealing both aspects of the kingdom?
- 5) How could a better understanding of the kingdom of God help us in our journey of following Jesus?
- 6) What do you learn about what we need to give up or leave behind in order to follow Jesus?

TAKING IT HOME

- 7) Looking back on this week's sermon and study, what's most important for you to remember?

PRAYER REQUESTS

