

The Kingdom Of God

(7 26 09)

Bible Quiz

- **What is the most preached about topic in New Testament?**
 - **John the Baptist preached it (Mat 3:2)**
 - **Jesus preached it (Mat 4:17)**
 - **Paul preached it to his very end (Acts 28:31)**
 - **Matthew mentioned it 50 times**
 - **Luke 30 times**
 - **Plus ...**
- **Why?**
- **When was last time you heard it?**
- **What is “the Kingdom of God (Heaven)”?**

What is 'Kingdom of Heaven'

- **Mat 13:44-46**

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.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

- **So precious, willing to give up everything for it**

- Hard to imagine (co-worker's brother)

- America:

- Pilgrims, boat people, train, immigration lottery

- Citizenship for another

- Schooling/Work

Difference in Kingdoms

- **Kingdom of Heaven (God) is not a worldly kingdom**
 - Jesus said His kingdom is not of this world (Jn 18:36)
 - Paul said that the kingdom of God is not about eating & drinking but of peace, joy, and righteousness (Rom 14:17)
 - Luke said that the kingdom of God is within us (Luke 17:20-21)

Acts 28:31 – Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Kingdom of God is internal Lordship**
 - Kingdom must have a king
 - Submit from the heart (peace, joy) vs. communism
 - If we truly believe king is good, perfect, & loving..
 - Easier to submit

Accepting the Kingdom

- Yet many choose not to accept this Kingdom. Why?
- Remember the parable of the sower (Mat 13:3-8)
 - A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, b/c the soil was shallow...Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a 100, 60, 30 times what was sown.
- Do you know that it was talking about the kingdom?
- Talking about the hearts of those who have heard about the kingdom

Accepting the Kingdom

Disciples did not understand. Jesus said v. 18

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means. When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.”

1. Seeds along the path

-Did not even stick (1Cor 1:18)

- **Rocky Places (Mat 13:20-21)**

-Shallow roots (initial joy)

-Trouble or persecution withered

- **Thorns (Mat 13:22)**

-Choked by worries of life & deceitfulness of wealth

-No fruit

- **Good soil (Mat 13:23)**

How Do I Get In?

- **Question: How do I get in the kingdom?**
- **Many have asked Jesus that question?**
 - Nicodemus in John 3:3
 - “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”
 - Disciples in Mat 13:13, Mat 16:19
 - Jesus revealed secrets in Mat 13:13
 - To Peter (Mat 16:19) I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.
- **What did Peter do with the secrets & keys after Jesus ascended to heaven?**

Peter & the Key

- **Addressed the crowd after Pentecost (Acts 2:22-35)**

- Jesus was handed over to you
- You put him to death by nailing him to cross
- David spoke about him
- But David died & his tomb is still there
- Jesus died but was resurrected

- **Peter continued on v. 36**

“God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brother, what shall we do (to be saved)?”

- **Peter was preaching the kingdom & Lordship of Christ.**

- **People were asking the same question**

- “How do I get into that Kingdom?”
- “What is the key to getting in, Peter?”

The Key

- **Acts 2:38**

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- **Repentance is key**

-Not new (Mat 3:2 – John the baptist, Mat 4:17 – Jesus

- **Acts 3:17**

-Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out...

-People sometimes mistakes "repentance" for worldly sorrow

-2Cor 7:10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation..but worldly sorrow brings death.

-Ex. Children.

-Sad about consequences of sins vs. hurt of others

- **Illustration**

-Path, rocky places, thorns, good soil

The Key

- **Repent for forgiveness of sins**

- Some may say: “I have not sinned”
- Others may say: “I’ve sinned too much”
 - V. 26 – whom you crucified
 - Remember Jesus on the cross
 - Anything can be forgiven except...

- **Peter did not stop there**

- **Acts 2:39**

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off.

- **In that day, 3000 came to know Jesus**

- Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord...
- Path, rocky places, thorns
- Good soil

Edification Time

- What spoke to you in this message
- Pray for one another.

