

RE-VALUING THE KINGDOM

Attaining the Kingdom of Heaven is worth everything we have or anything we can acquire.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ When we look through the Bible, we see that Jesus spent a lot of time talking about the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ❖ Matthew 13, for example, has seven parables that speak about the Kingdom of Heaven:
 - Parable of the sower
 - Parable of the tares
 - Parable of the mustard seed
 - Parable of the leaven
 - Parable of the hidden treasure
 - Parable of the costly pearl
 - Parable of the dragnet.
- ❖ Two of these seven parables show us that God will do everything in His power to save us, even though He has to put up with a host of “tares” growing alongside the “wheat,” or “bad fish” in the dragnet along with the good. (Both of these situations will be dealt with at the end of time.)
- ❖ Three parables show how exceedingly small investments on our part can yield tremendous, eternal results (mustard seed, leaven, hidden treasure).
- ❖ And one parable speaks of those who are actively seeking the Kingdom of Heaven. Where, after having encountered it, they are willing to sell everything they possess to attain it.
- ❖ The “Kingdom of God” is “God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule.” His Kingdom is both internal and external.
- ❖ Internally, He establishes His lordship over our hearts and minds, changing and re-making us in ways we could not possibly have done ourselves. He gives us benefits like “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7), along with “righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:17b).
- ❖ Externally, in the physical realm, we have the promise of residence and citizenship in God’s eternal kingdom.
- ❖ Human beings have proven over and over that we do not have the skills necessary to rule ourselves or each other.
- ❖ In God’s Kingdom, He rules!
- ❖ How appealing is this to us? Who or what is king over our lives? Who or what will we allow to control us?
- ❖ The phrase “God’s people” speaks to our status when we enter the Kingdom through His amazing grace and mercy.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 13; Luke 18:18-30

- ❖ Calvary opens the door and as we enter in God seals us as His people through the infilling of His own Holy Spirit.
- ❖ “God’s place” refers to the world to come and all the joys He has in store for us.
- ❖ “God’s rule” is based on His divine character and His divine Word. His Word becomes our ‘rule for life’.
- ❖ However, it is when we have come to the knowledge of His Kingdom that we come face-to-face with a crucial decision of eternal significance.
- ❖ Shall we enter in...or stay out? Will we receive His kingdom with joy...or reject it with grief? Are we willing to sell everything we have in order to attain and thereby obtain the Kingdom of Heaven?
- ❖ The parable of the sower tells us of three great impediments to receiving and responding to the message of the Kingdom:
 - The devil steals the Word
 - Persecution and affliction cause us to lose our grip on the Kingdom
 - The cares of life and the deceitfulness of wealth (‘the good life’) quench our desire for the Kingdom.
- ❖ Let us strive to enter in, because attaining the Kingdom of Heaven is worth everything we have or anything we can acquire.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Discuss the meanings of the seven parables (sower, tares, mustard seed, etc.) listed in the lesson.
2. Share experiences (whether yours or of those around you) of God’s saving power, of small investments yielding great spiritual results, or of one willing to sell all they had in order to attain a better, eternal treasure.
3. “The Kingdom of God is God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule.” In your opinion, is it easy/hard to submit to God’s rule and what are the things that can make it one or the other?

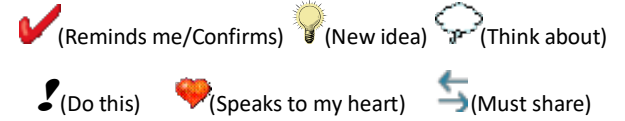
Prayer Time

Lord, I recognize the immeasurable value Your Kingdom has, and I give You thanks for my place in Your Kingdom.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.



PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

**Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline**

Start-up: Are you the type of person who will sell your possessions in order to obtain something of greater value? Why or why not?