

# The Kingdom of God

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*But seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well<sup>1</sup>.*

Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God eighty times in the Gospel. It was a critical message that He wanted us to understand. He illustrated what the Kingdom of God was like and how its principles and precepts would facilitate our daily decision-making. It was His Heart that we would understand these principles and ideas and then use the wisdom and creative ability He has given us to accomplish those principles. We were never designed to be robots that blindly follow a set of programming rules. We were designed to be like Him. We have free will. We are expected to make decisions and use creativity to accomplish the goals of His Kingdom

I recently visited a community that was designed from the beginning to be perfect. All the houses were beautiful and had porches. Everything from the street signs to the sewer covers was perfectly designed to match the image of the designer. There were strict rules regarding how things should appear, even down to the types of flowers that had to be in your gardens. This Kingdom looked beautiful, but it did not have the freedom of choice. It also did not have room for personal creativity. It was a kingdom of rules. The Kingdom of God is not like that. It is a celebration of personal creativity.

Our Heavenly Father is the God of creativity. Every snowflake is different, every meadow is covered with flowers, and millions of different flowers and plants express his creativity, so it is to be in His Kingdom. We are to be instruments of creativity. He will continually give us creative ideas and communicate with us, but we are expected to use our creativity and abilities to facilitate those ideas. This is how His Kingdom was designed to operate.

## What is a Kingdom?

The concept of a Kingdom is a foreign idea in most countries today. A kingdom is simply a place where a King rules. It is the realm of his influence where his values, laws, and enforcement operate. The King is the ruler, and his government and subjects follow his rules and values. In an earthly kingdom, a king rules his subjects' outward appearance and activities. The Kingdom of God is different because it focuses on a person's heart and is demonstrated in three ways. These ways are as follows:

### 1. Kingdom of God is near or at hand

"Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near. "

The Kingdom of God is near and at hand. Each day we face decisions wherein we choose to live by His principles or not. When we choose His ways and principles, we step into His Kingdom. This means that we can step into His Kingdom at any time and ask Him to help us live in that Kingdom.

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## 2. Kingdom of God is within you.

Nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'there it is,' because the Kingdom of God is within you ."

The Kingdom of God is within, as much as you choose to let Him rule in your decisions and let Him into the closed doors of your heart. All men have parts of their hearts where God knocks at the door. He wants to bring His Kingdom into those closed doors of injury and past sins and bring healing, forgiveness, and restoration. We have to answer the door to let Him in. He will bring His light, love, and healing if we let Him.

## 3. The Kingdom of God has come upon you.

But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you.

Jesus made this statement when He was confronted by religious leaders who said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons ." Jesus responded to this challenge by saying, "a house divided against itself would fall. So how can Satan throw out Satan?" He then went on to say that when he casts out demons, the Kingdom of God comes upon you.

Jesus' message was all about the Kingdom of God. His ministry was the illustration of the Kingdom of God. He demonstrated the Kingdom of God when:

- He healed the sick,
- Cleansed the lepers,
- Set the demonic free,
- Raised the dead,
- Spoke life to the downtrodden prostitute,
- Spoke acceptance to the woman at the well,
- Restored Peter when he sinned,
- Acknowledged Thomas' lack of faith and offered His hand to put his fingers in the holes of His hands to build up his faith.

He demonstrated His authority and power over this world and its government structures, the spiritual world and all the demons and Satan himself, and all nature; for example, He caught a fish to get a coin to pay His taxes and He rebuked the storm. He continually demonstrated the Kingdom of God through His actions.

Paul also demonstrated the Kingdom. He said: "My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power ."

We are called to do the same. Jesus said;

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father".

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I asked the Lord what He would like to say about the Kingdom of God. This is what I felt He said.

Son,

The Kingdom of God is love, righteousness, and perfection. It is not a rules-based kingdom based on people mindlessly following a prescribed set of laws. This is not what I created man to do. I created man to use his mind to bring light into all aspects of the world, to listen to Me, and to work with Me to accomplish this.

The Kingdom of God is the heart of my message. I want my people to be the executors of My laws and precepts, not by being harsh bosses but by being leaders. Leaders lead. They don't beat people into submission. They inspire and show the way. They are light.

The Kingdom of God has rules, principles, and policies that guide decision-making in daily situations. I expect my people to understand My principles and commands and to apply them to daily situations. I expect them to use their mind and say how these principles or commands can be facilitated in each situation.

Son, the rule of any kingdom works this way. No king can be involved in every decision. A good king consistently executes the role of developer of good policy and commands that guide those under him in decisions that need to be made. This is how a kingdom is well-managed.

In my Kingdom, I lay out the principles and commandments in the Bible, and I expect My people to read them and know them. I want them to ask Me for wisdom on how to execute these principles. I want them to ask for clarification if they do not understand them.

Love,

Dad

The next section contains all the Scriptures regarding the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven in the New Testament. We have sorted these into ten categories and encourage you to read and study these.

## ***1. Who does it belong to? Who can enter the Kingdom?***

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the Kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 18:3 And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little

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children, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:4 Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 21:43 "Therefore I tell you that the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.

Matthew 10:14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Mark 10:15 I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Luke 6:20 Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God.

Luke 18:16 But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Luke 18:17 I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

Acts 14:22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

Matthew 8:11 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of heaven.

Mark 10:24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the Kingdom of God!

Luke 13:29 People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the Kingdom of God.

John 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again. "

2 Thessalonians 1:5 All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the Kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.

## ***2. Who does it not belong to?***

Matthew 21:31 "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God ahead of you.

Matthew 19:23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich

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man to enter the Kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 23:13 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the Kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

Matthew 19:24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God."

Mark 10:23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

Mark 10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God."

Luke 13:28 "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.

Luke 18:24 Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!

Luke 18:25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God."

1 Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders

1 Corinthians 6:10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the Kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 15:50 I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Galatians 5:21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

### ***3. Rank in the Kingdom***

Matthew 11:11 I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 18:1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Luke 7:28 I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the Kingdom of God is greater than he."

### **4. What is the Kingdom of God like?**

Matthew 13:24 Jesus told them another parable: "The Kingdom of heaven is like a man

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who sowed good seed in his field.

Matthew 13:31 He told them another parable: "The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.

Matthew 13:33 He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

Matthew 13:44 "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.

Matthew 13:45 "Again, the Kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.

Matthew 13:47 "Once again, the Kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.

Matthew 18:23 "Therefore, the Kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

Matthew 20:1 "For the Kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard.

Matthew 22:2 "The Kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.

Matthew 25:1 "At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Mark 4:26 He also said, "This is what the Kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.

Mark 4:30 Again he said, "What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?"

Luke 13:18 Then Jesus asked, "What is the Kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to?"

Luke 13:20 Again he asked, "What shall I compare the Kingdom of God to?"

Romans 14:17 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

1 Corinthians 4:20 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

## 5. Where is the Kingdom?

Matthew 3:2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Matthew 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Matthew 10:7 As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'

Matthew 12:28 But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you.

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Mark 1:15 "The time has come," he said. "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Mark 12:34 When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Luke 10:9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'

Luke 10:11 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The Kingdom of God is near.'

Luke 17:21 nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the Kingdom of God is within you."

Luke 19:11 While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the Kingdom of God was going to appear at once.

Luke 21:31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the Kingdom of God is near.

Luke 22:16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the Kingdom of God."

Luke 22:18 For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the Kingdom of God comes."

## ***6. Who is least in the Kingdom of Heaven?***

Matthew 5:19 Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the Kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the Kingdom of heaven.

## ***7. Who advances the Kingdom?***

Matthew 11:12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

Luke 8:1 After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him,

Luke 9:2 and he sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Luke 9:11 but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the Kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

Luke 9:60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."



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Luke 11:20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the Kingdom of God has come to you.

Luke 14:15 When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."

Luke 16:16 "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the Kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.

Luke 18:29 "I tell you the truth," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the Kingdom of God

Acts 1:3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the Kingdom of God.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 19:8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the Kingdom of God.

Acts 28:23 They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the Kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.

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

## ***8. Secrets of the Kingdom.***

Matthew 13:11 He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.

Matthew 13:52 He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

Mark 4:11 He told them, "The secret of the Kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables

Luke 8:10 He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, 'though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.'

Luke 17:20 Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The Kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation,



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## *9. Keys of the Kingdom.*

Matthew 16:19 I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

## *10. Other scriptures.*

Mark 14:25 "I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God."

Mark 15:43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the Kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

Luke 4:43 But he said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent."

Luke 9:27 I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God."

Luke 23:51 who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the Kingdom of God.

Colossians 4:11 Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my fellow workers for the Kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me.

Mark 9:1 And he said to them, "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Mark 9:47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the Kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell,

Matthew 19:12 For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the Kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."

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<sup>i</sup> Matthew 6:33