

## KINGDOM QUALITIES

God has placed in mankind a desire to explore, search out and discover new things.

Stop now and think about the times in your life when you wanted to do that.

God has given us a Book that has many riches to discover and explore. In this lesson I want you to do more than read. Take time to look up these scriptures and think about their application to your life. Jesus wants us to be like children when it comes to adventure and learning new things. There is much spiritual gold ahead of you, just waiting to be found!

*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,  
But the glory of kings is to search out a matter. - Proverbs 25:2 NKJV*

*If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless. - Proverbs 2:3-7 NIV*

*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 that 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. - Matthew 13:44-46 NIV*

If one reads about the pioneers in missions in previous centuries, you will read about some that literally forsook all to follow Christ. We will include some of those stories in future messages in other relevant sections such as the one on FAITH and the one on FOLLOWING JESUS.

**Jesus is our ultimate example of forsaking all for the sake of the kingdom of God.**

## KINGDOM QUALITIES

### Invisible & Supernatural

Luke 17:20-21 like the wind    2 Kings 6:8-18 chariots of fire

Matthew 16:28-17:1-8 transfiguration

Hebrews 11:3 creation formed from the invisible (God's Words)

(This verse does not teach that God created the world by faith and that He is a faith God as taught by many. God does not need faith, for He sees all things.)  
We are the ones who need to understand by faith.

### Powerful

Kingdom of power, not just words

1 Corinthians 2:4-5, 1 Corinthians 4:20, 1 Thessalonians 1:5

Matthew 4:23; 11:12; 13:3, 11-33

The kingdom influence never stops growing. A **little seed** becomes **BIG**.  
Jesus started with only 12 disciples. At Pentecost they went from 120 to 3000. One report says they grew to 50,000 in 6 months. Over the next 200 years they grew to over 6 million.

Yeast **expands** and effects its environment. The Roman Empire felt the impact of the Christians.

- How should this effect our faith level? Our perseverance & commitment?
- Who is in your circle of influence?

**PURIFYING** Matthew 5: 13-16

Early on Jesus puts **VISION** into his disciples by calling them **SALT**..... it purifies, preserves, brings flavor and zest.....a little goes a long way.

Where is salt most useful? - Luke 14:34-35

\*Jesus calls us **out of the world.**

\*Jesus takes the **world out of us.**

\*Jesus sends us **back into the world!**

**LIGHT**.....guides, shines, reveals, warms, beautifies

Where is light most needed? - 1 John 2:9-11

**Unshakeable** Luke 6:46-49, Hebrews 12:28

All worldly kingdoms will fall but God's kingdom is unshakeable. Jesus is the King of the Kingdom and He is unshakeable and unchanging - Hebrews 13:8

Jesus is the kingdom of God taking sandals and walking. the kingdom of God Christlikeness universalized. - E. Stanley Jones

**Abundance** Matthew 19:26, John 10:10

2 Corinthians 9:8; James 1:16-1; Genesis 1 & 2

God is a gracious and generous giver of many types of blessings. He does not mind if we have riches, but he does not want riches to have us, nor are we to seek after them unless we intend to use them for his purposes.

**God's Kingdom is Present...It's here!** Matthew 4:17; 12:28

Matthew 5:3,10 Who is highly favored now by the King? Why? How?

Matthew 6:31-34 What is the advantage in seeking the kingdom first?  
How do we do it?

Matthew 11:11,12 What causes people to be passive or assertive regarding the kingdom?

Luke 17:20-21 Where does the kingdom start?

Romans 14:17 Not physical or material things  
What are the benefits of righteousness? see also Isaiah 32:1-2, 15-18

Colossians 1:13 Living in the kingdom of the Son after being snatched out of darkness.  
What is the difference between living in the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light?

Revelation 1:9, 13:10, 14:12 What qualities are needed to live in the kingdom?

## **God's Kingdom is Future**

Some aspects of God's kingdom will only be revealed and enjoyed until the second coming of Jesus Christ, when he restores the kingdom over all the earth. This is when the fullness of his glory will cover the whole earth as the waters cover the sea. - Habakkuk 2:14.  
God wants his people to be salt and light in all areas of society and exercise his authority and influence now, but there will be no theocracy until Jesus returns.

**He (Jesus) must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. - Acts 3:21**

**Then the end will come, when (Jesus) hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all enemies under his feet. - 1 Corinthians 15:24-25**

### **His Eternal Plan Is Fulfilled:**

**a. Destroy his enemies** - Matthew 13:36-43  
- 1 Corinth. 15:23-25  
- 1 John 3:8

**b. Liberate mankind from their grasp** - Luke 4:14-21, Isaiah 61:1-3  
Jesus' kingdom manifesto brings deliverance, liberation and healing in all areas of life...spiritual, economic, physical, emotional  
He has given us a foretaste while he walked this earth and now through his church, but it will be in totality when he returns to earth.

**c. Establish his reign upon earth through the Son Jesus Christ**  
- Rev. 11:15; 12:10, 20:4

Matthew 25:31-41 How can we prepare for the kingdom? Who are the king's brothers?

Luke 19:11-27 What happens to those who reject the king?

Acts 1:6-8 Where will the kingdom go before it visibly returns to Israel?

2 Peter 1:3-11 What assures us of a rich welcome in the kingdom?

## GOD'S KINGDOM IS ETERNAL

*Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him. - Daniel 7:27*

*God has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also **set eternity in the hearts men**; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. - Ecclesiastes 3:11*

God has placed inside mankind a longing for long life and immortality. Man was originally born to live forever in God's presence as heirs in His kingdom. Adam's fall interrupted that reality for mankind. Jesus came to earth to restore that longing for eternal life in man. - John 17:1-4. How does mankind **enter** into the **eternal kingdom** of God? **You must be born again.** The world was created when the Spirit of God hovered over God's Word. - Genesis 1:1-3. Jesus is God's living Word to mankind. When we receive Him by his Holy Spirit, there is a new birth. More details in next lessons.

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