

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

The Cross of Jesus Has Put Us into the Kingdom of Heaven

Col 1:13

“He (God) has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”

The Kingdom of God/Heaven/Jesus Christ are Interchangeable

Mark 4:11

*And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know **the mystery** (i.e. it is hidden from the world) **of the kingdom of God**; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables”*

Matt 13:10-11

*“And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know **the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been given.”*

The Kingdom of Heaven is Due to the Abiding Presence of the King

2 Cor 6:16

“For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

Luke 17:21

"nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”

John 14:23

“Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

The Lord Jesus Christ is All in All to Us

Eph 2:14

“For He Himself is our peace”

1 Cor 1:30-31

“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God-- and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.”

Eph 1:22-23

“the church... is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

The Kingdom of Christ in Us is to be Treasured Above All Else'

Matt 13:44-49

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it."

The Kingdom of Heaven Should Overtake Our Whole Being

Matt 13:31-32

"Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

Matt 13:33

"Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

“The Kingdom of Heaven is Like.....”

Jesus presented many parables which started , *“The kingdom of heaven is like.....”* Some of the applications are apparent. E.g. *“The kingdom of heaven is like... “a mustard seed,” “leaven” “a treasure in a field” “a pearl of great price.”* In others, the application is not so apparent. E.g.

Matt 13:24

“Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;”

Matt 18:23

"Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants."

Matt 20:1

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard."

Matt 22:2

"The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son."

Matt 25:14

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them."

WHY DOES JESUS SAY THAT THESE VARIOUS THINGS ARE LIKE THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?

The church is the visible expression of the kingdom of heaven on earth. Even though it is plagued by hypocrites and apostates, it is still the organ through which Christ will establish His eternal reign. It is therefore called the kingdom of heaven in these parables.

This section of parables describe

1. **The mixture of good and bad and indifferent in the church.** E.g. the fish in the dragnet; the wheat and the tares; the wedding guests and those who refused the invitation; the corrupted servants. *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away."*
2. **The Lord working in His kingdom.** *"The kingdom of heaven is like a man(Christ) who sowed good seed in his field."*
3. **The fate of the disobedient.** *"So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just."*

Faith and Trust as a Little Child to Enter the Kingdom of Heaven

Matt 18:3

"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matt 18:4

"Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

The Kingdom of Heaven is Based on the Victory of the Lord

Rev 12:10-11

"Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."

The Overcoming Power of the Kingdom of Heaven in Our Ministries

I Jn 4:4

*"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He** who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

John 16:33

*"These things I have spoken to you, that **in Me** you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, **I** have overcome the world."*

Eph 3:7

"...I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power."

Col 1:29

"To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily."

The Kingdom of Heaven is Exercised Through the Authority of the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ

Acts 8:12

*"But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning **the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ**, both men and women were baptized."*

Acts 3:6

*"Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: **In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, rise up and walk."*

Matt 16:19

*"And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you **bind** on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you **loose** on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

Luke 10:19

"Behold, I give you the authority (in My name) to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

Matt 10:7-8

"And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

Our Comprehension of the Kingdom of Heaven is Pitifully Small

Eph 3:17-21

"that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever." Amen

We Have to Press Into the Kingdom of Heaven

Luke 16:16

"The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it."

We have to enter into the power of the kingdom of heaven by faith. The kingdom of heaven is not seen or felt until we step out in faith to accomplish what we cannot do in our ordinary circumstances. We must draw on the unlimited capacities of the indwelling Lord to overcome our deficiencies.

Hab 3:19

"The LORD God is my strength; he will make my feet like deer's feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills."

Isa 40:29-31

"He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the LORD shall renew

their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”