

Date : 8 Nov 2020
Theme : Back to the basics
Topic : Understanding the Gospel of Matthew
Key Verse : *But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33*

Introduction

The four gospels in the New Testament give us four accounts of Jesus' life and ministry from four different perspectives. Each gospel was written for a specific purpose. Matthew portrays Jesus Christ as the King of Kings whose purpose is to establish His Kingdom on earth.

Christ' Kingdom is a Kingdom that never ends. Citizens of His Kingdom receive eternal life which continues on in heaven. Matthew tells us how to live a fruitful life that counts for now and eternity. Knowing who Jesus is and His purpose enable us to perfectly serve and worship Him. One day we have to give Him an account. Through Jesus' teachings, stories and parables we know what are the King's standards and what is expected of subjects in His Kingdom.

Key words : Heavenly Kingdom, righteousness, judgement, authority and power.

- Nature of His Kingdom
- √ Never ends
- √ No limit to His authority (All power)
- √ Full of joy, such as when a sinner repents
- √ Its citizens enjoy eternal life on earth and in heaven
- √ Fairness - all faithful servants greatly rewarded

1. Evidences attesting to Jesus as the promised King.

a. At His birth

- A descendent of David's kingly bloodline – a genealogy of 42 generations
- A ruler who would be born in Bethlehem *Micah 5:2*
- Planetary alignment seen in the sky when the exceptionally bright 'star' led the wise men (from the east) to the birth place of the King of the Jews. *Matthew 2:2*
- His parents took him and escaped to Egypt, as prophesied *Matthew 2:13*
- Jesus' fore-runner, John the Baptist would prepare the way, as prophesied *Matthew 3:3*

b. At the start of His ministry

- John the Baptism announced Jesus as ... *One more powerful than I... who has authority to justify and condemn. Matthew 3:11*
- God the Father testified about Jesus at His baptism ... *This is my beloved Son... Matthew 3:17*

c. At His trial

- Pilate asked ... *Are you the King? Jesus answered ... Yes, it is as you say... Matthew 27:11*
- The sign on the cross ... *This is Jesus - the King of the Jews Matthew 27:37*

d. His commands

- A King orders with authority; everything was subject to His Kingly command (calming the storm, healing disease etc)
- His teachings reflect the rules of His Kingdom; He is *The Lord of the Sabbath Matthew 12:8*

2. Matthew's gospel has 5 main sermons of the Kingdom

a. Sermon 1 Kingdom lifestyle (sermon on the mount) *Matthews 5-7*

- Attitudes - purity, hunger for righteousness
- Entry requirements - righteousness *5:20, 7:22*
- Evidence of relationship with the King - doing the Father's will *7:21* (the King Himself fulfils the laws He makes *5:17,18*)
- Life-style practices which show relationship with the King - prayer, discipline, kindness, submission to His rule by faith (example, the Centurion's faith in Christ' authority)

b. Sermon 2 Kingdom mission *Matthew 10*

- Kingdom authority and power given to His disciples *Matthew 10*
 - must be used freely *10:8*
 - exercised without fear of man; fear God who has power to cast soul and body into hell *10:28*
 - warning - disowning Jesus on earth is like renouncing citizenship, it will result in being disowned before God in heaven *10:33*
- Effective use of life here - search for some worthy person, speak peace
 - if listeners reject you (your message) they have to give account.
 - those who stand firm to the end will be saved *10:22*
 - our lives are highly valuable to God
(worthiness = when we lose our lives for Jesus, it will result in life not death)
- Rewards assured *10:40-42* (We will be judged by Kingdom standards.)
 - even for serving the youngest disciple.

c. Sermon 3 Kingdom growth *Matthew 13*

(Parables of Kingdom growth)

- Parable of the sower *13:3-23* – Do not be distracted by those who fall away, because the gospel yields 100, 60, 30 times what was sown.
- Parable of weeds *13:24-30* – While God's work is growing, Satan's opposition is also growing
- Parable of mustard seed *13:31-32* – silent, gradual growth of God's Kingdom, like a small seed growing to a tree.
- Parable of yeast *13:33* – like a small amount of yeast in the dough, God's Kingdom begins small and hidden but grows large at an amazing speed.
- Parable of treasure hidden and the pearl *13:44-46* – Kingdom citizenship must be treated as treasure of the highest value, worth selling all else to get it.
- Parable of good and bad fish in a net *13:47-50* – both genuine believers and those who are not true subjects will be separated on the day of judgement.

d. Sermon 4 Kingdom community *Matthew 18*

(Jesus deals with the principles and attitudes that should mark His people (Church) as they get along with each other.)

- Know who is greatest in the Kingdom *18:1-6*
- Do not cause offence *18:7*
- It is better to sacrifice in the battle against sin now than face the punishment of eternity in hell later *18:8-9*
- Do not despise the little ones and look for the lost *18:10-14*
- Deal with sin in the Kingdom community *18:15-18*
- Gather for fellowship in Jesus' Name *18:19-20*

e. Sermon 5 Future - Jesus gives signs of His second coming *Matthew 24,25*

- Destruction of the Temple
- Signs of the end times

Application

- Because Jesus is King we must decide to be genuine subjects who seek His Kingdom first. Choose one sermon above. How would it look like to seek Him first in your life?

