

January 12th, 2020
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Standing on Kingdom Ground
Sermon #1 Title: - The Kingdom Issue
Sermon #1 Text: (Mark 4:10-12)

Introductory Sermon

Without doubt, at the end of this sermon, someone may start to wonder if anybody is saved. But rest assured, the fullest understanding of all that we are about to preach, when done by the Spirit, will:

- 1.) Assure, and Comfort, and Guide and Provide for some...
- 2.) Frustrate, Offend, and Alienate others....
- 3.) It will Woo some people closer, it will shoo some people away...

Matthew 4:17 – the first recorded message that Jesus proclaimed – “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

- In short that is the essence of the good news.. God’s Kingdom is Here!
- Now I know that for most people in modern day America, that message falls flat.
 - It piques no interest
 - It provides no relief
 - It amazes and excites virtually no one...

- What adds to the sadness is those responses are rarely different inside the professing world of Christianity.

(For many people, it’s a nice thing to know...glory be...but really has all the effect on their lives as a monkey in the Congo...it changes nothing.)

- BUT, what I would have you to know, is that this is the dividing line for this life now, and for eternity for ever. The kingdom of God IS the determining reality of your life now, and your destiny later.

- The widest gap in anyone’s life is seen in the fact that they have absolutely NO interest, in the one thing Christ said is to be the total interest of your life.

- Matthew 6:33 – “But ***seek ye first the kingdom of God***, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

- It’s not to be “an interest” of our lives – it is to be THE interest in our lives.

- so much so, that it is to be to the exclusion of all competing interests...

I want to tell you and plead with you to understand – there is absolutely NOTHING more important, than to live standing on Kingdom Ground.

- It is simple . . . but it is not cheap
- It is a direction.... Not a deed
- It is a Reality... not a religion

This morning we are going to look at an introductory passage about the Kingdom of God...

Then for the next several weeks, we are going to go through Matthew 13, in which our Lord reveals the people in the Kingdom, the problems to deal with, and the progress it has made in time, and will make in time.

Mark chapter 4 is an abbreviated retelling of Matthew 13, and as we give our attention to this subject this morning we begin with these 3 verses.

We begin though with the verse we started with...

Matthew 4:17 – “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

I. The Unclouded Message for All – “The Kingdom of God is at hand.”

- When Jesus first came preaching, He proclaimed this crystal clear message, that every Bible thinking Jew could understand stand, and every thinking Greek and Roman would be willing to hear.

- What is this message?

A. The Definition To Practice– “Kingdom of God” –

1.) “Kingdom” – “basiliea”

a.) We get our word “basilica” from it.

b.) It means, “realm of rule”

2.) Domain, and Reign – It is a word that speaks of one’s authority to control.

*Note – Several years ago, I gave you a working statement pertaining to the Kingdom of God. – I’ve told you that God is over everyone, but not everyone is UNDER God.

- The Kingdom of God is Every Heart that actually yields to and desires to be under the control of God.

- Write this verse down – (Luke 17:20-21) – Jesus “answered them and said, The Kingdom of God cometh not with observation; Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, **the kingdom of God is within you.**”

- Now here is the ultimate message of the gospel...

- Repent, and get under the saving dominion of God – (Now here’s where the rubber meets the road...

- Anytime someone’s conscience or unconscience position is, “I want to be saved from hell, but I have no interest in being told how to live” has never yet repented!

- Salvation is being redeemed from an independent spirit into a Kingdom that rules and reigns heart, mind, body, and soul... - It is a total takeover!

I read one of the saddest obituaries a few months ago that displayed total ignorance of Biblical Christianity...

- Now obviously the person the obituary was about wasn’t the author . . . but whoever wrote it about them had no understanding of Christianity...

- The obituary sang the praises of this person’s love for life, love for Jesus, and love for God, and was faithful to their Christian character...however they “would never have their life interrupted on a weekly basis inside the four walls of a church...”

(Now that illustration is not about church attendance...it is about realizing that Biblical Christianity means you no longer have a life to be “interrupted” by Biblical commands, . . . Biblical commands are your greatest joy, not a lifestyle interruption!)

- To be in the Kingdom of God, means He is King over all of Your Life, and You and I LOVE it!

Now Note – the message is to every man woman boy and girl under the sun! – “Repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

- Jesus came to save men from their sin, and His invitation is “whosoever will may come!”

B. The Desperation It Presents – It is the difference between Life and Death – it is the dividing line between heaven and hell. – “for you” AND “them that are without.”

1.) Note the text – there are two kinds of people – “you” and “them that are without.”

a.) Those who are “in the kingdom”

b.) Those who are “without the kingdom”

*Note – This speaks of those whose hearts have believed unto repentance, and those who have not!

- Those who have believed unto submission

- Those who have not believed unto submission

*note – The Kingdom of God constitutes all people that are actually saved!

- And it is an Unclouded Message to All!

- Now that being said, Jesus reveals here in verses 10-12 Kingdom Communication... - How and Why He reveals all things known about the Kingdom in parables!

- He reveals the People of the Kingdom – in Parables

- He reveals the Progress of the Kingdom on earth – in Parables.

- He reveals the Problems of the Kingdom on earth – in Parables.

In the 7 parables of Matthew 13, Jesus reveals and conceals all of the dynamics of the Kingdom of God...

Now notice there are two functions of Christ teaching things in parable. To Reveal and Conceal...

II. The Unsaid Things For Some- “And he said unto them, Unto you (the disciples) it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God.”

A. The People the Lord Enlightens – “And He said unto them, unto you it is given.”

1.) He is speaking to them as disciples – (willing, trusting, believing, and receiving students.) – These are full time students in the Kingdom College!

*Note – Remember again, Christ separates “You” from “Them that are without.”

- Those who Christ puts in the category of the Disciples, He gives them something that He does not give to others...

B. The Principles the Lord Instills

- What is it? – The Mystery of Kingdom

2.) “It is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God.”

What is this “Mystery of the Kingdom of God?”

#1 – *it is a Secret* – but now listen, it is more than that...

The word “mystery” – is “mysterion” and it means to have “shut the mouth.” – Some define it as the “silence of the initiated.”

- It is the “Unsaid things of the Kingdom.”

*Note – Jesus said, in essence, “It is given you to know the unsaid things of the Kingdom of God.”

#2 – It is Given – It is not discovered!

- The Mysteries of the Kingdom rule of God will never be uncovered by those who oppose the kingdom rule of God.

*Note – An intellectual might say, I can study these parables, and uncover their code, they’re not that difficult... - Baloney... one might decipher a parable, but never rises to the level of discerning the reality of the kingdom.

- Write these two verses down:

- John 3:3 – “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

- John 3:5 – “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

Christ has reserved the “blessings” of being under the rule and reign of God, for those who have surrendered to the rule and reign of God.

- He has reserved for them insight and understanding
- He has kept for them peace, and strength, and assurance
- He has preserved them from perishing...

(Here’s the deal – Everyone in this room that is standing on Kingdom Ground – has something from the Creator – that

those not standing on Kingdom ground do not have! – We have access to the benefits of Heavens kingdom.)

III. The Unchanged Doom For Others– “That seeing they may see and not perceive; that hearing they may hear and not understand.”

*Note – Now not only does Christ reveal for some, He conceals from others.

- What God closes, no man can open. – What’s more, what God closes, no man may even know there is something that could be opened...

*Note – Notice two things that the Lord keeps from those who oppose Him, and why He keeps it from them...

A. The Perception He Blinds – “That seeing, they may see and not perceive”

1.) the word for “perceive” is “to know” and to “know by having seen something.”

- In other words, Jesus said, that they may look at it, and still not know what they’re looking at.

*Note – Man has the unfailing ignorance to think that all “perception is by experience, and if you can experience you can know it...”

- Christ says here – “they may experience with their eyes, but they still won’t know it.”

- Christ has kept back clear perception from those who will not be yielded to Him and His Word.

B. The Understanding He Prevents– “and hearing they may hear and understand not...”

1.) These are those willing endure the sound,
but unwilling to obey the Word...

- in short they don't have ears to hear

2.) The idea of "understand" is the concept of
rightly putting two things together.

- We say around here it that it is
seeing things the way the Lord wants
them seen.

C. The Redemption He Withholds – "lest at any time
they should be converted, and their sins should be
forgiven."

*note – This entire statement is a quote and a prophecy from
Isaiah 6:9-10. It was a pronounced judgment on Israel for
their unwillingness to repent and trust the Lord.

In fact

- Matthew 13:14, declares this to be a fulfillment of prophecy
pertaining to Israel in particular.

Matthew 13:14-17 is an expansion of this passage – "And in
them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By
hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye
shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is
waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes
they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their
eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with
their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.
But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they
hear."

Christ withholds from the Israelites that were without –
Perception, Understanding, and Forgiveness...

- Why?

- They were unwilling to repent at the Word of God
from the Son of God.

- Now what was true of Israel was true of all.

- Christ is Unwilling to Forgive the
Unrepentant. – and they are WITHOUT the
Kingdom of God.

- He does not receive the defiant, or the rebellious, or the
independent, or the prideful, or the stubborn... Only those
willing to be submissive to King Jesus and His Written Word.

Never get the idea that men have the "RIGHT" to be saved, or
that men have a RIGHT to the Kingdom.

Conclusion: Lord be willing and the Lord is willing that you live
on Kingdom Ground.

- Lord Nelson was an admiral in the British Navy. In a famous
battle, he conquered and defeated a great French
Commander. When the defeated commander was brought
before Lord Nelson to surrender, the commander stuck out
his hand to the Admiral, wishing to accomplish peace...Lord
Nelson looked at him and said, "Give me your sword first, then
I will take your hand."

- Kingdom means just that – "KINGDOM"