




***Jesus***  
***Lesson #4, The Kingdom***

***Jim Hoffman***



# *Why so confusing?*

- *Why is does it seem so confusing? Jesus spent so much time on the subject, yet it remains a little mysterious.*
  - *There is a spiritual sense – I can bow to the king and live by his teachings now in this life. (at hand)*
  - *There is a literal sense - 2 Timothy 4:18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. NIV*
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# *The Kingdom of Heaven is Like*

- *Matthew 13:24 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. NIV*
- *A field where many living things look similar, but what they produce is what really matters and in due time the real thing will be easy to see.*



# *The Kingdom of Heaven is Like*

- *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. 32 Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." NIV.*
- *Living out small, simple acts of obedience to Christ has a powerful effect on all around us – this positive effect also serves to advance the kingdom.*

# *The Kingdom of Heaven is Like*

- *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." NIV*
- *Like yeast, we are to have an affect on our world. As we mix with our world, we can change it, but only if we are willing to enter in.*



# *The Kingdom of Heaven is Like*

- *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." NIV*
- *Living for the King in his kingdom will change your priorities – even to the point of leaving all that you were for something he wants to you to be.*





# *The Kingdom of Heaven is Like*

- *Matthew 13:45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it." NIV*
- *To those who are searching for a better way to live, living for the King is so attractive, some will abandon all else to embrace it.*





# *Kingdom Thoughts*

- *We think the most important thing about His coming was our salvation – Jesus may have a different point of view.*
- *Galatians 4:19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, NIV*
- *Jesus came preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God – yes, getting saved is the only way to start, but the objective is much more than our missing Hell.*







# *Kingdom Thoughts*

- *Every king needs to have obedient subjects – as we trust and obey God we enter into the kingdom life now!*
- *Obedience is the way to experience the kingdom life now – in fact, I don't have to know all of the complexities of kingdom living; I just have to obey the King.*
- *“Salvation is the beginning of a new life – at that point we are in the kingdom, but it is not yet in much of what we are.” Dallas Willard*





# *Has the Gospel been distorted?*

- We see little “kingdom living” by the modern church – when we see it, we are drawn to it and want to embrace it, but our thinking has been distorted.*
- Sadly, I too am guilty, much of the modern day gospel preaching is limited to a focus on what God has done for us .... At the risk of minimizing His work on our behalf, I must say there is more to the gospel than just what is good for us.*
- God saved us to a life of serving the King in his kingdom.*



# *Has the Gospel been distorted?*

- *When we see friends and family who “raised their hand” or “went forward” not exhibiting a movement towards serving the King we must ask – are they saved?*
- *Jesus came offering a kingdom, not fire insurance.*
- *Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, to those who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*  
*NIV*



# *Has the Gospel been distorted?*

- *So when I ask if the gospel has been distorted, I believe the answer is yes, in varying degrees.*
- *And we should not be surprised because if the enemy can point to professing believers and charge “they are no different from anyone else”, then he has rendered our testimony moot.*
- *Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. NIV*





# ***Believing in Jesus is not an event.***

- ***The big question is this – does a conversion centered gospel produce disciples?***
- ***What we have come to think of as a single event, the conversion experience, is only a part of God's intentions..***
- ***When we tell people “now you are in, go in peace” we cheat them of the opportunity to be a productive citizen of the kingdom.***





## *A different perspective.*

- *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.  
NIV*
- *When we read this we think of having the requisite righteousness to go to Heaven – the righteousness of Christ.*
- *What if Jesus meant – unless you actually have godly good works, you cannot claim to be a subject of the King?*





## *The Kingdom of God is where you are.*

- *When Jesus announced the kingdom of God was at hand he meant it – it is available to you wherever you are and in whatever condition you find yourself.*
- *It took the exile from Jerusalem to teach Israel that God is not just King in their city, but he is King everywhere.*
- *In Babylonia they found that God was there and if they choose to obey Him, he would bless them in any land.*





## *The Kingdom is open to all.*


- *Luke 15:1 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." NIV*
- *The availability of the kingdom extends not just to the timing, but to its inclusion – open to all.*
- *Those who were thought to be unacceptable and excluded were now declared to be welcome.*







## *The Kingdom is open to all.*

- *Luke 6:20 "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." NIV*
  - *Jesus wasn't telling anyone to strive to be poor – he was announcing that being poor is not some sign of God's indifference to you – the poor are invited in too.*
  - *What man had declared to be limited to a select few, Jesus said was a "come as you are, whoever you are" party.*
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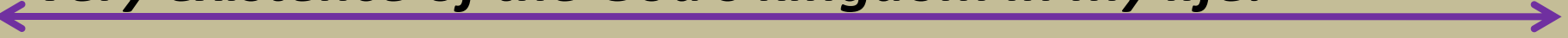
# *Authenticating the Message*

- *The power of Jesus shown through his miracles and teachings authenticated his claim that God's kingdom had arrived.*
- *What evidence is there in my life to authenticate my claims that I am "in"?*
- *Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. NKJV*





# *Authenticating the Message*

- *If living by the King's standards allows me to live like I am already in the kingdom, what does that mean to my daily life?*
  - *Remember, in the kingdom of God - up is down, left is right, and small is big .... Catchy phrases, but what changes?*
  - *Because if nothing changes then it is fair to question the very existence of the God's kingdom in my life.*
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# Questions

