

GOD'S KINGDOM IS DIFFERENT

Matthew 26:64

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: The "Kingdom of God" is mentioned many times and Jesus spent His ministry teaching about the Kingdom of God. Jesus told His disciples to around telling about the Kingdom of God and in the Great Commission Jesus gave, it was about going all over the world telling about the Kingdom of God. Jesus said to "seek first the Kingdom of God..." and in the Lord's Prayer Jesus said to pray "...Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done..." Jesus presented Himself as King and rode into Jerusalem on the back of an ass as people celebrated His arrival. Pilate asked Jesus if He was a King, the Sanhedrin asked Jesus if He was the Messiah and each time Jesus answered positively - He was. Jesus is King not only of man's world, but He is the King of an eternal place called heaven. Jesus teaches about the coming Kingdom of God about it being very different than present things.

I. JESUS' TEACHINGS ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

1. The Kingdom of God starts with the rule of God in a person's heart.

- The Kingdom of God is not brought about by power over others but by a new life from God growing within a person.
- The enemy is Satan and the army to be feared is the spiritual evilness that invades each person.
- The Kingdom of God begins in the secret places within a person and brings goodness, humility and love.
- Jesus is a different kind of King.
 - He rode into town on the back of a lowly ass, not some great steed.
 - Jesus takes the cross as His throne and rules by giving Himself in love.
 - His Kingdom is different and so are those within His Kingdom.

2. The rule within God's Kingdom is spiritual and not material.

- God creates a new person with new allegiance and a new motivation.
- The new person in God exerts a new influence in his/her world as his/her life is entirely different from those not of God's Kingdom.

3. The Kingdom of God is social and not a single, solitary Kingdom as the world knows.

- One at a time people are redeemed through Jesus Christ.
- That new person is placed in a new realm, society of other redeemed people.
- There is a family of God in which every believer is related to each other as brothers and sisters with God as their Father, therefore a family of which Jesus Christ is Head.
- It is a new order of humanity, a redeemed society, a fellowship of God's people on earth.

4. The Kingdom of God is universal, not an isolated or local thing.

- Jesus said that "...the field is the world..." "...Ye are the salt of the earth..." Ye are the light of the world..."
- Jesus' great commission is to "...go ye into all the world....to every creature and to all the nations..."
- Jesus' Kingdom is greater than that of a military, power hungry, dreaming organization. Jesus' Kingdom is for everyone and comes out of Love.

5. The Kingdom of God covers all and everything.

- There is no area that Jesus is not over.
- There is no divisions such as sacred and then secular - "This is God's, and this is man's" or "This is spiritual and this is material."
- Everything within the circle of life belongs to Jesus.
 - Sadly, much of today's teaching and preaching divides the social, political from the Spiritual.

6. The Kingdom of God has already started, it has yet to be finalized.

- The Kingdom of God is both right now and still coming.
 - Present wherever the Lord Jesus is and yet awaits His glorious second coming to consummate His Kingdom.
- Jesus is coming again and "...the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord..." (Revelation 11:15)
- "...At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow... and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of all..." (Philippians 2:10, 11)
- Jesus is coming again! Therefore believers do not fear the future or have clouds of uncertainty in their lives.
- It's wonderful to belong to the Lord Jesus, knowing that one day every believer will move to that gfinal, complete and glorious victory when He returns.

7. The Kingdom of God is ruled in grace and infinite love.

- Jesus makes believers citizens and servants of God by gaining their hearts and by binding them to Himself.
- It was by love that Jesus (King) came from Heaven, laying aside His robes of authority and putting on human nature, moving down to the low levels of man's needs and suffering for and with mankind.
 - He chose the cross for His throne and His crown was of thorns.

CONCLUSION:

1. When one has received His forgiveness, there comes a desire to live for Him and do His will.
 - It is only right that every person should give him/herself to Him for He alone is worthy.
2. Jesus, alone, is good enough and kind enough to rule the human heart and life.
3. Jesus has purchased man's life by giving His own.
4. When a person surrenders to Jesus Christ, the King and trusts Him, he/she enters the realm of God and experiences His gracious rule.
5. The Kingdom of God is here but it is coming in it's fulness when the Lord Jesus comes back for the second time to call out His royal family.
6. DO YOU belong to the Kingdom of God?