

Live for the Kingdom of God

A Disciple's Response to the King

Do you remember those old movies portraying medieval battle scenes of knights in armor led by heroic kings? I don't know how historical they were, but I was always inspired by the inevitable scene of a knight shouting, 'To the king!', around whom they would rally and raise their standard. I was moved by men in arms who would willingly lay down their lives for the greater cause of their king and their kingdom. There is something noble in having a cause one is willing to die for.

Disciples have such a noble cause. It is a cause that is certainly worth living for, and even more, worth dying for! Indeed, in the light of this cause, every other endeavor we involve ourselves in pales in comparison. Every other thing we may build or work for in this life will eventually *pass away*, but everything done for God's Kingdom will endure for *eternity*. That alone should capture our hearts and imaginations, and compel us to forsake all else except this one worthy cause!

It was the priority of Jesus' life. Everything He did and said reflected His complete devotion to the One who sits on God's Throne in Heaven. Christ's disciples ought to do no less for their LORD, for He is worthy of our complete devotion!

What is the Kingdom of God?

Jesus answers that question in the prayer He taught His disciples.

- 9 "Pray, then, in this way:
'Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
- 10 **'Your kingdom come.**
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:9-10

The Kingdom of God is where God rules absolutely and His will fulfilled perfectly. This present world lives in a state of rebellion against the King of the Universe, instigated by the devil who has established his own counterfeit kingdom among men who worship at the altar of Self.

But isn't it your genuine desire to live under the rule of the King whose Kingdom is perfect love and justice? It is for such a life that God created us in Christ! Our spirits will not be fulfilled anywhere else! The sooner we understand and accept this, the sooner our lives will gain a significance infinitely beyond anything this world can offer.



2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Matthew 6:9-10

Circle or Underline ...

- v 9 How Jesus refers to God.
v 10 What Jesus prays to come.
What He prays to be done.
Where He prays it to be done.

The Kingdom of God is as much a state as a place. Wherever God reigns supremely, His Nature is manifested completely. There love, holiness, justice, truth, grace and all that God is, becomes the norm and reality of all who dwell in it.

The Kingdom's Priceless Worth

Jesus revealed the Kingdom's worth to His disciples through His parables:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field,
which a man found and hid *again*;
and from 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 fine pearls,
and upon finding one pearl of great value,
he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:44-46

1. What is Jesus' point in these parables? _____

2. How would you apply the lesson of these parables? _____

Jesus demanded that His disciples give up all for the Kingdom.

"So then, none of you can be My disciple
who does not give up all his own possessions.

Luke 14:33

1. What does Jesus mean that His disciple must 'give up all his own possessions'?

2. Why does Jesus demand that His disciples do this? _____

3. How do material possessions keep a person from being a faithful disciple?

4. Can a person be a disciple while having possessions? Why or why not? _____

Matthew 13:44-46

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What the kingdom is like.
- ✓ What a man was willing to do to gain it.
- ✓ What the kingdom is also like.
- ✓ What the merchant was willing to do to gain it.

Through His parables, Jesus revealed the value of God's Kingdom. It is worth more than we will ever own. Those who realize its worth are willing to do whatever it takes to possess it, for only the foolish will not trade their earthly wealth for all the riches of Heaven!

Luke 14:33

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What none can be.
- ✓ Unless he does what.

Jesus recognized our tendency to divide our love and devotion. He requires nothing less than complete commitment and allegiance from His disciples for their success will require it, and only those who recognize His worth will make it.

The Kingdom Proclaimed

Christ has called us to continue His ministry to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

But He said to them,

**"I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also,
for I was sent for this purpose."**

Luke 4:43

59 And (Jesus) said to another, "Follow Me."

But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father."

60 But He said to him,

**"Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you,
go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God."**

Luke 9:59-60

1. Why was the Kingdom of God the primary message of Christ? _____

2. How does Jesus demonstrate the importance of proclaiming the Kingdom?

The coming of Jesus marked the initial stab of light into the kingdom of darkness. The words and works of Christ pushed back the forces of Satan and established a beachhead for Christ's followers. With the departure of their LORD to heaven, it is now the primary task of His followers to continue the assault on the darkness that envelopes those blinded by Satan's deception.

Today the cry must resound, **'For the King and His Kingdom!'** We must answer the call to proclaim God's Kingdom 'everywhere', for there is no greater work for all who claim to follow Christ. To live for the Kingdom of God must supersede all other activities in our lives, for **there is nothing more important!**

Memorize 

**"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you."**

Matthew 6:33

1. What is the significance of the second part of this verse? _____

Luke 4:43

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What Jesus must do.
- ✓ Why.

Luke 9:59-60

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ 59 What Jesus said to another.
How he responded.
- ✓ 60 What Jesus told him to do.



Isaiah 9:6-7

At His first appearance, Jesus came as a servant proclaiming God's Kingdom, knowing that those who would not embrace His message would be doomed to everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46). He also knew that one day He would return as King, a position for which He was destined and of which many prophecies were given. **Handel's Messiah** is the ultimate testimony of this truth.

Matthew 6:33

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What we must seek first.
- ✓ What will be added.

We often do the less important things first and never gain the best. Here, Jesus is setting our priorities in order. If we will seek His Kingdom first, He will surely provide the other things.

Do not be deceived by the superficial glitter and temporal pleasures of this present world. They appeal to the sin nature infecting our flesh but will never satisfy our new born spirit within. Our destiny is the eternal Kingdom of our God and Saviour where we will experience 'fullness of joy' and 'pleasures forevermore'. **Live for that Kingdom** and you will not be disappointed when the King returns! Guaranteed!



Matthew 24:44-47

Live for the Kingdom of God

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

In light of what what you learned, list what you will do.

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

The Kingdom of God

The Perfect Place for Me!