

Thy Kingdom Come

Chapter 5

Audio lesson: New Testament 5



Objective: To introduce Matthew's theme of the kingdom of heaven and to understand the birth of the King.



From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

—Matthew 4:17

"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'"

—Matthew 6:9-10

One of the primary emphases of the Gospel of Matthew is "the kingdom of heaven." Jesus came into this world as a King—not the kind of King that rules over a national government, but the King of an eternal, spiritual kingdom open to anyone who believes in Him. Those who follow Jesus are called, therefore, to be His subjects and to seek to bring His kingdom into their lives and into the world.

To submit to Jesus as King means that He becomes the Lord of our life. When we repent and turn to Jesus, we turn away from our selfish desires and the values of the world and accept the values of the King. When we pray, we pray for His kingdom to come. And as we relate to other people, we tell them the Good News of the kingdom so that they can follow Jesus too. Our whole lives are to be centered around this goal: to see God's spiritual reign established in our lives and our world by the power of the Holy Spirit.



1. True or false? One of Matthew's emphases was the kingdom of heaven.
2. True or false? According to Matthew's gospel, being a follower of Christ means becoming part of God's solution for the world's needs.
3. True or false? The idea of a "kingdom of God" began with Matthew in New Testament times.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

4. What is the kingdom of heaven? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. A country where Christianity is the official religion
 - b. A country where Christianity is the majority religion
 - c. The establishment of the heavenly order in the world
 - d. The supremacy of God's will in human affairs
 - e. The reign of God over humanity
 - f. The King living within individual people
 - g. A democracy in which there is religious freedom
5. What kind of King does Jesus want to be?
 - a. Ruler of Israel
 - b. Ruler over every country's government
 - c. Lord of the church only
 - d. Lord of every person's heart
6. According to Jesus, what should our priority be when we pray?
 - a. For our will to be done
 - b. For God to meet all our needs
 - c. For God's kingdom to be established in the world
 - d. For our government leaders to be wise
7. What is the power of the kingdom of heaven?
 - a. The good works of human beings
 - b. The unity of all humanity
 - c. Persuasive words of preachers
 - d. The Holy Spirit
8. What does the word "repent" mean?
 - a. To turn around and go the opposite direction
 - b. To be sorry
 - c. To be saved
 - d. To agree with Jesus' words

9. What part of our lives does repentance affect?
- a. Our minds
 - b. Our will
 - c. Our lifestyle
 - d. All of the above
10. What kinds of values should Christians have?
- a. The same values as our culture
 - b. The values of our church
 - c. The values of our King—Jesus
 - d. It depends on our mood
11. Why do some people not believe in the virgin birth of Jesus?
- a. They understand biology well enough to know it is not true.
 - b. The virgin birth is just a legend, not a truth found in the Bible.
 - c. They do not believe supernatural miracles are possible.
 - d. Jesus Himself said He was just an ordinary man.
12. When did the Wise Men arrive to see Jesus?
- a. About a week before He was born
 - b. The moment He was born
 - c. Two years after He was born
 - d. When the angels called them to come
13. Which of the following kinds of people felt threatened by Jesus?
- a. Wise men
 - b. Religious and political leaders
 - c. The poor and oppressed
 - d. Angels



What has repentance meant to you? Have you become a citizen of God's kingdom? Is your value system the same as the King's?



Thank God that He sent Jesus into the world to save us and that people like Matthew wrote about Jesus so we could learn of Him. Ask God for His kingdom to come and for His will to be done on earth as in heaven, today and each day.



Going Deeper

1. What is the difference between the Kingdom of Heaven in the Gospel of Matthew and the Kingdom of God in the other Gospels? _____

2. When we're told in the Gospels that Jesus and John the Baptist came preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God, why was that message good news? _____

3. Relate this concept to the familiar passage in John 3: 3, 5. What was the purpose of the new birth according to Jesus when He presented the new birth to Nicodemus? (Consider the emphasis Jesus placed on the Kingdom of God in Matthew 6:33) _____

4. Explain why Jesus began so many of His parables with the statement "The kingdom of heaven is like..." _____

5. What did Jesus mean when He taught that the Kingdom of God is within you? _____

6. Explain what it means to profess and confess that Jesus is your King as well as your Savior. _____

7. In light of this emphatic teaching, is it possible to trust Jesus to be your Savior and then take an option on making Him your King and your Lord? Explain. _____

