

KINGDOM OF GOD



BY PASTOR DAN NELL

THE
KINGDOM
OF
GOD

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All Jesus' preaching was about the kingdom of God.

Matt. 4:17,23: "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say: repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people." It is clear that no person can enter into God's kingdom without salvation. It is clearly illustrated from what happened in Matt. 4, that where the Kingdom of God comes, there healing and miracles occur.

At the first increase of the loaves, we read these wonderful words in Luke. 9:11: "And He received them, and spoke to them of the kingdom of God".

Even in the "Our Father" Jesus teaches us to pray: "Thy Kingdom come;" (Matt. 6:10). Also read: Matt. 5:10 & Matt. 10:7,8.

In Matt. 6:33, Jesus tells us to seek His Kingdom. "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you". ("These things" refers to food, drink and clothes).

THIS SCRIPTURE DOES NOT STATE:

1. "So that all these things can be added unto you".
2. Nor does it say: "With the motive to get all these things"

DO NOT LOOK AT WHAT YOU CAN GET OUT OF YOUR SERVICE TO GOD, BUT RATHER LOOK AT WHAT YOU CAN PUT INTO IT.

AMPLIFIED BIBLE - Matt. 6:33

"But seek for (aim at and strive after) first of all His Kingdom, and His Righteousness (His way of doing and being right) and then all these things taken together will be given you besides"

THE LIVING BIBLE - Matt. 6:33

"And He will give them to you (your material need) if you give Him first place in your life and live as he wants you to".

GET YOUR PRIORITIES RIGHT!!

God comes before my husband or wife! Before my work; my studies; my family; my friends; my pleasure and my own needs!

WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE SPEAK OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

The Greek word for "Kingdom" is Basileia. It refers to: a SOVEREIGN AREA".

God's Kingdom is the area and the place where the will of God is acknowledged and obeyed.

IN MY HEART - Therefore you need to preserve your heart from evil. (Mark. 7)

IN MY HOME - What do you allow in your home?

IN MY BUSINESS OR WORK. - That is why you need to do honest business.

COME LET US DEDICATE THE AREA WHERE WE LIVE, WORK OR STUDY, TO GOD.

Charles Finney, the mighty evangelist dedicated his town to God, even when trains past in the night, people fell down and surrendered to God. Come let us take control of our communities for the Lord.

Listen carefully to the words of Paul in 2 Cor. 10:3,4: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds"

(Also read v. 5 & 6). Come let us use these weapons to nullify the plans of Satan.

In Luke. 17:10,21 Jesus tells us that we need to understand the Kingdom of God spiritually. "And when Pharisees asked Him when the Kingdom of God will come.

He answered them and said: The Kingdom of God does not come with visible signs. They will not say: Look here! Or Look there! Because the Kingdom of God is within you".

THIS IS SO IF GOD REIGNS IN MY HEART! IS THIS ALSO YOUR TESTIMONY?

JESUS' OWN DESCIPLES THOUGHT THAT HIS KINGDOM WOULD BE ESTABLISHED WHEN HE DELIVERED THEM FROM THE YOKE OF THE ROMANS.

LOOK AT THEIR QUESTION AND HIS ANSWER:

Acts 1:6-8: "When they came together, they asked him, saying: Lord will Thy restore again the Kingdom of Israel? And He said unto them: It is not for you to know the time or the seasons, which the Father has put in His own power. But you shall receive power when the Holy Ghost comes upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

JESUS SAID UNTO PILATE:

John.18:36, "My kingdom is not of this world, and if it were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I would not be delivered to the Jews; but now my kingdom is not from hence".

1 Cor. 4:20, is a very special word where Paul says: "for the Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power".

An example of this we find where Jesus drove a blind and dumb spirit out of a man.

The Pharisees accused Jesus that He did this through the power of the devil.

Jesus answered them in Matt. 12:28: "But, if I cast out devils by the spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God is come unto you".

OH! That God would establish His Kingdom through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We conclude from Matt. 12 that each time when God works through His Holy Spirit, his Kingdom comes in that place.

WE EXPERIENCE THE KINGDOM OF GOD AT EACH;

1. Conversion
2. In-filling with the Holy Spirit
3. Healing
4. Deliverance

HOW CAN WE COMPARE THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

1. It is like Seed (Matt.13)
2. It is about Forgiveness (Matt.18:13-25)
3. It is like a landowner who hired laborers (Matt. 20:1-6)
4. It is like a virgin preparing for her bridegroom (Matt. 25:1-13)

WARNING: The Kingdom of God can be taken away ! **Matt. 21:43**
"The Kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a Nation bearing the fruit of it"

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ALSO PREACHED THE KINGDOM OF GOD:

- | | | |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| John the Baptist | - | Matt. 3:2 "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." |
| The Disciples | - | Matt. 10:7 |
| Phillip | - | Acts 8:12 "He preached the things concerning the Kingdom" |
| Paul | - | Acts 14:21,22; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23 |

"We must through many tribulations enter into the Kingdom of God"
(Acts 14)

WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

Repent (Matt.3:2)

Be born again (John 3:5)

Be humble in your spirit (Matt.5:3)

Have a servant heart (Matt.25:34-40)

Never Quit (Luke 9:62)

Be like a child (Luke 18:16,17)

Come in right standing with God (1 Cor.6:9-11)

Get rid of the works of the flesh (Gal.5:19-21 Eph.5:5)

- **In Matt.5 to 7 Jesus teaches us the principles of the Kingdom**
- **In Matt.8 and 9 TEN Miracles took place, and was to confirm the Kingdom of God**
- **In Matt 10 Jesus sends His disciples out to extend His Kingdom. He gives His disciples authority in His Kingdom**

THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

Matt. 16:13-19

The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven are the same. The reason why Matthew did not speak of the Kingdom of God, but of the Kingdom of the Heaven, is because the Jews believed that the name of God may not be spoken or written down. They were afraid that they might do it in vanity! **Ex. 20:7** "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that takes His name in vain".

In Matt. 16:19, Jesus teaches us that this Kingdom has keys!

- Each house and business has its own keys
- Not everyone has entrance to the house, but only those who live there.
- Will you give important keys to anyone or to a child ?
No, only to those you can trust !
- Motorcar keys?
- Front door keys?
- Kitchen cupboards?
- The safe?

Question: Can God trust you with the keys of His Kingdom?

With these keys we can lock and unlock.

WHAT ARE THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

1. The first key: Matt 18:1-4

HUMILITY: If you want to become the most important one, in life, decide to be the least.

2. Matt. 12:22-25

UNITY: If a Kingdom is divided against itself, it shall not stand. If we are divided, we will not be able to open spiritual doors.

3. In Rom. 14:17. Paul gives us 3 keys on a key ring.

"For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but **RIGHTEOUSNESS** and **PEACE** and **JOY** in the Holy Ghost".

AMPLIFIED BIBLE: "after all the Kingdom of God is not a matter of food and drink but instead, it is righteousness - that state which makes a person acceptable to God and heart peace and joy in the Holy Spirit".

a) THE FIRST KEY on the ring: RIGHTEOUSNESS

Righteousness refers to our right standing with God.

A state where I am acceptable before God. - without any unpaid debt.

Only a blood offering is acceptable to God! Think of the blood offering which the high priest had to bring on the Day of Atonement.

CAN GOD SEE THE BLOOD OF JESUS IN YOUR LIFE?

According to Rom. 4:3-5, we do not become righteous because we deserve it, but through faith in God.

Hezekiah had 15 years added to his life because he had the key of righteousness in his hand on his deathbed. (2 Kings. 20: 2-5).

b) THE SECOND KEY ON THE RING IS: PEACE

Tension binds you, but peace sets you free!

Every marriage definitively needs this key.

If you have peace with God and with your fellow man, you have the Kingdom of God within you.

c) THE THIRD KEY ON THE RING IS THE JOY IN THE HOLY GHOST!

This joy cannot be stolen by anything, including persecution. After the Apostles were beaten we read the following in Acts 5: 41 "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name!"

In Acts 16 we read about Paul and Silas who opened the prison bars with their singing. You can experience the same, when you use this key of God's Kingdom in your life. No wonder that Nehemiah, in spite of pressure from his enemies, could call out in Neh. 8:10 **"The joy in the Lord is your strength"**.

This joy is not even affected by a poor harvest. Hab. 3:17,18.
(Please read this scripture.)

Do you possess: Righteousness? Peace? Joy in the Holy Ghost? If so, then you are in possession of the Kingdom of God.

KINGDOM LAWS

In Matt. 5+6+7 we find the laws or the principles of the kingdom. Each kingdom has laws that must be strictly adhered to. God's kingdom also has explicit laws.

WE FIND THE FOLLOWING LAWS OF THE KINGDOM:

1. *The Kingdom law concerning RECONCILIATION*

Read Matt. 5: 21-26, and study it.

LET US CONSIDER A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT RECONCILIATION:

a) What does reconciliation mean?

It means to make peace. We need to be peacemakers, firstly with God and then with our fellowman. But don't forget to make peace with yourself. If God has forgiven you, you need to forgive yourself as well.

b) When do I need to reconcile with my brother or sister?

Matt. 5:23,24: If I am busy praying to God, and I am reminded that my brother or sister has anything against me!

c) How do I reconcile with my brother?

Matt. 18:15-17.

d) *How many times must I make peace?*

Matt. 18:21,22; Luke. 17:3,4

e) *Why do I need to make peace?*

If I do not make peace, God will give me over to the tormentors. Matt. 18:34-35.

I must make peace with others if I want peace between God and myself.

Luke. 11:4. Many people cannot move their mountains of problems, because they cannot forgive. Mark. 11: 22-26.

2. ***THE MARRIAGE LAW***

Matt. 5:27-32

What is MARRIAGE? This is a union between one man and one woman, who makes a vow before God, to remain joined together until they are parted by death.

Anyway, God only created one woman for Adam! Marriage is an institution of God and it is a sacred matter. 1 Tim. 4:1-3, Heb. 13:4.

There are specific responsibilities in the marriage.

Eph. 5:22-23, 1 Pet. 3:1-7.

3. *The law of TAKING AN OATH.*

Matt 5:33-37

This refers to taking a solemn Oath before God that a statement that you made is the absolute truth.

Examples from the Old Testament:

Gen. 21: 23+32 Abraham and Abimelech

Gen. 24: 24 Abraham and Eliezer

Gen. 47: 29-31 Jacob and Josef

God expects from us to be honest in our dealings with others. Jesus said in Matt. 5:37: "but let your communication be Yea, yea and nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than this comes from evil".

Listen to what James says in the Amplified Bible. James 5: 12: "But above all things, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or earth or by any other oath; but let your yes be a simple YES, and your no, a simple NO, so that you may not sin and fall under condemnation".

4. ***The LAW OF RETALIATION***

Matt. 5:36-45. This refers to Reckoning or Payback.

5. ***The LAW OF ATTITUDE***

Matt. 6:2,5,16.

In Philippians Paul teaches the following about attitudes:

Phil. 1:12-18

Paul had problems with the attitudes and motives of others, but look how special his attitude is when he calls out in verse 18: "What then? Notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence or in truth, Christ is preached; and I rejoice therein, yes and will rejoice!"

Paul also refers to the wonderful attitude of Jesus, and encourages us to acquire this attitude for ourselves. Phil. 2:1-5

This Attitude includes:

- Not being selfish
- Not to seek vanity
- To be humble
- To value others higher than yourself
- To see to the needs of others

6. *The LAW of CONCERN (Worry)*

Matt. 6: 25-34

When trouble comes our way there is a Kingdom law in us that tells us that we are more valued by God than anything he made (v.26-28). This law in us drives us to seek God's Kingdom. That is His will (v. 33)

7. *The LAW of GIVING*

It is better to give than to receive. Acts 20:35. The Dead Sea is dead because it only receives and has no outlet.

WHEN WE GIVE TO GOD, THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES

APPLY:

- Give willingly. Ex. 25:2,1; 1 Chron. 29:9
- Give gladly. 2 Cor. 9:7
- Give according to the measure that God blesses you. Deut. 16:17
- Give your best. Mal. 1:8,13,14. (Read what the complaint against Israel was).

8. The LAW of CONDEMNATION

Matt. 7: 1-5

TO CONDEMN MEANS: judge without acquiring the necessary knowledge and proof.

THE BIBLE FORBIDS US TO JUDGE.

(Read Romans 2:1-3 and James 4:11,12)

When we want to condemn or judge there is a law in us that tells us first to look into our own hearts.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD FORCES A WAY OPEN FOR ITSELF

In Matt. 11:12 Jesus says:

King James Translation - "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force".

The Living Bible - "Since John the Baptist started preaching, until today, the new realm where God rules, is busy to break down every resistance, and people who concentrates and applies their strength, makes it their own."

HOW DID THE KINGDOM OF GOD FORCE A WAY OPEN FOR ITSELF, SINCE THE TIME OF JOHN THE BAPTIST?

In Matt. 3:1-12, John speaks and says: "Repent ye, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand". Conversion and salvation is definitely necessary if one wants to enter the Kingdom of God. When conversion takes place, it is accompanied by "violence" because it is a 180 degrees turn around in the individual's life.

The people came rushing from Judea and the surrounds to be baptized by John the Baptist. He baptized them while they confessed their sins. (v. 5,6). Yes, truly the Kingdom of God has forced a way into the hearts of these people.

LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN JESUS STARTS TO PREACH THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM.

Matt. 4:17,23,24

Miracles always take place where the Kingdom forces a way for himself. Even the demons must flee.

Matt. 8:1-3.

The leper collected all his strength and dared to come close to Jesus where he fell at the Master's feet. All lepers had to keep their distance, and stay away from other people. If they came close, they were stoned.

The bible compares leprosy to sin. If a person has fallen into sin, it truly takes effort to come back to God for cleansing.

In Matt. 8:28-34,

we find the story of the demon who possessed men in Gergesenes (Gadara). God's Kingdom strikes the area with force! 2000 Pigs are destroyed! It is always the case: When God's Kingdom comes in a heart or a home, all unclean spirits flee.

Matt. 9:2-7._ This is about the lame man in Capernaum. It is violence to break open the roof of another man's house. What do we do to get people to Jesus? Will we be prepared to act so violently? Oh! I pray that the Kingdom of God will break through in houses and lives that need Him.

There is another example in ***Matt. 9***, of how the Kingdom of God forces a way through. We read this in Matt. 9:20-22. The woman, who suffered from a flow of blood for twelve years, forced a way through the crowd to get to Jesus. She is but a sickly woman from all the blood that she had lost over a 12 year period, but in spite of it, she is determined to get to Jesus. The moment that she touched the hem of Jesus garment, she received her healing.

Are you sick? Are you in need? If you want something from God, you will have to apply all your strength to get to Jesus. No one should be allowed to stop you from getting a touch from God.

Come, let us believe that the Kingdom of God will visit our town or city, as was the case with Ephesus as is described in Acts 19. This was a city full of idols and sorcery, but just look what God did when His Kingdom forced a way through. (Read Acts 19:11-20).

OH! FOR VIOLENCE IN OUR SPIRIT:

- To be saved
- To receive healing
- To stop the attacks of the devil against our homes and marriages.

If you desire a spiritual breakthrough in your life, there needs to be force and commitment in your Spirit. Decide now or never is the time for you to seek God with your whole heart!