

Kingdom Come Review

HEAVEN ON EARTH

That's how we began our study this year.

Jesus told us to pray, “Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.”

Matthew 6:10

Is it possible to experience, enjoy and share some of the realities of life in heaven while we are on earth? Or, do we have to wait until we're in Heaven?

At our first Gathering we talked about being homesick for Heaven. There are so many moments and glimpses of perfection in creation. When we experience them, they're wonderful and we want them to last forever.

When you see and hear a great wave crashing on shore, do you wish you could hold the moment still?

When you see a flower clothed in beauty and smell the sweet aroma, do you wish its **beauty** would stay like that forever?

When you hike to the top of a mountain with people you **love**, and see a magnificent sunset, do you wish you could hold onto it and make it last forever?

These are glimpses of Heaven. You're longing for Home, the place where you belong, with your family.

But they are glimpses. There is so much still broken in the world today.

John the Baptist and Jesus both said,

“The Kingdom of Heaven is near” Matthew 3:2, 4:17

The word **near** in the Greek is the word *eggizo*. It means
1448 *eggízō* - has drawn close. extreme closeness, immediate imminence and
presence

This word occurs 14 times in the Greek New Testament in perfect tense.
Which means “actions that are already done. Whatever you’re talking about has been
completed when we are speaking about it.”

“(It [the Kingdom of Heaven] is here) because the moment of its coming, happened.
At the incarnation, the birth of Jesus, the essence of Heaven came to Earth and was
born as a baby. And from the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, He was sharing it and
teaching it, saying so often,

“**The Kingdom of Heaven is like...**”

Then He told His disciples in Matthew 10:7

“**proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’**”

How are we to understand Jesus’ message about the Kingdom of Heaven so that we
can embrace it and be able to proclaim it? Our best source of information is the still
Jesus. He **showed** us what needs to be healed and how to live the realities of Heaven
on earth. Jesus is our teacher and guide.

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like...” Intentionally studying Jesus’ teaching about the
Kingdom is a worthy pursuit. We could spend years on it. For this year, so far we have
looked more deeply at **5 foundations and 6 miracles for Kingdom living.**

FOUNDATIONS

FAITH - Divine Persuasion

Once we have acknowledged the truth of the Bible and are walking with the LORD, He continues to grow our faith by divinely persuading us increasingly of what is true. We stop seeing the world the way our natural minds comprehend it, the way the enemy wants us to see it and we begin to see clearly. We see what God sees. And with this continually increasing clarity we can live and **walk by faith courageously.**

HOPE- The Anchor for the soul

When we are on the right path, increasingly experiencing and sharing the Kingdom of God, and walking by faith, we will get hit with trials and pain that Satan wants to use to knock us off course. But, we have an anchor that is keeping us moving in the right direction. This anchor is the hope we have that our High Priest has gone before us and cleared the path for our arrival. He's got you. You're safe. **Hold onto this hope tenaciously.**

LOVE - Wholeheartedly

As we grow in faith, persuaded of the goodness and sovereignty of God in the face of everything life throws at us, and we prove the trustworthiness of the anchor of our hope, we will find that fear has a harder and harder time controlling us. Because perfect love casts out fear. Even with all our shame, just like Peter diving into Jesus' presence on the shore of Galilee after Jesus' resurrection, we are safe in the love of God. He loves us without reserves, wholeheartedly. And overflowing with His love in us, we can turn around and **love God and people wholeheartedly.**

JOY - Our strength

Hope produces joy. Joy produces strength. Strength enables praise. And, in these, God is glorified! **Welcome joy unreservedly!**

PEACE - Our Guard

When anxiety rears its head, we can leave it behind and move peacefully through each day by

Prayer - have constant conversation with God - Talk and Listen

Supplication - Tell God about your deep emotions and pains. Ask Him for what you need.

Thanksgiving - The perpetual habit of giving Thanks will begin to transform your perspective from your own limited one, to God's.

And peace will act as body guard for the thoughts in your mind and the emotions in your heart one day at a time. **Move in peace steadily**

???Which foundation needs attention and fortification in your life?

What are you going to do to strengthen it?

MIRACLES

I hope that by now, you've really grasped that everything Jesus did and said brought the ways and realities of the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. Every miracle Jesus performed was bringing a taste of the wholeness and freedom that we will experience perpetually, for all eternity, in God's Kingdom.

Physical and Spiritual Healing

I hope also that you have truly grasped that every miracle Jesus did to heal a person's physical body temporarily was also teaching us what we need done in our inner life permanently.

Each person we've discussed this year had a physical problem that only Jesus could fix. But, how great could it really be to repair the physical problem, but leave the corresponding spiritual problem unfixed?

What good would it be for the man with the **withered hand** to have his hand repaired, but not heal his work ethic, **rhythms** of work and rest or **purpose** in life? He would still be unable to work well even with a functional hand.

What good would it be for the **crippled** man to have his legs repaired, but leave him in fear with his old, broken identity? He would still be paralyzed from living a full adventurous life, even with strong legs.

What good would it be for the man who was **deaf and mute** to have his ears and mouth repaired, but leave him without **understanding** of what he could finally hear, and therefore lacking good and beneficial things to say? He would still be ignorant and speechless even with functional ears and mouth.

What good would it be for the **blind** man to have his eyes healed, but leave him without the capacity to see the world correctly, the way God **sees**. He would be like the Pharisees who had eyes to see, but couldn't **discern** the truth that was right in front of them.

What good would it be for the man with **leprosy** to be purified and looking fabulously healthy, but leave his shame? He would remain isolated with a downcast soul, even in the **company of people**.

What good would it be to free the man enslaved and **controlled by the evil spirit**, and not **fill him with the Holy Spirit**? He would remain enslaved to his own sinful nature and all the pain that comes with it.

Jesus did not come to set these people free from their physical problems just so that they could understand more clearly the depravity and hopelessness of their spiritual problems! He did to come to give life halfway.

“He came to give life, and give it abundantly!”

John 10:10

He came to give abundant life to you. The healing he brought to the hearts and mind of these people, He wants to bring to you.

So let me ask you...

1. Where is He inviting you to go with Him? Get up on your restored **legs**. **Embrace your new identity** and go!
2. What is He inviting you to work on with Him? Stretch out your restored **hands**. **Enjoy His rhythms of work and rest**. **Know your God-given purpose** and do it!
3. What is He whispering to you? Accept His invitation to the quiet space to use your restored **ears** and listen.
4. What has He put in your heart that He wants to say through you? Open your mouth and with your restored **tongue** and speak.
5. Who has He placed in Your sphere of influence that He wants to care for through you? With leprous shame of your sin cleansed, go to them and care for them and be cared for. Enjoy the **fellowship of the Bride of Christ**.
6. When God looks at you, your life, your circumstances and the people around you, what does He see? Open your restored **eyes** to see from God's perspective and discern what's true.
7. What is the Holy Spirit revealing to you in your sound mind? Let The Spirit's incredible ministry in you and His guidance continue to set you free.

Which question really jumped out at you as I was reading them? Take a few minutes to talk through with the person next to you.