

## FORMATION 8: THE KINGDOM OF GOD

### What is Meant by the Kingdom of God?

In the bible, there are events that point to the Kingdom of God's power. Jesus healed and cast out demons. He fed the hungry and even raised the dead. Later, Jesus defeats death on the cross and we see the power of resurrection.

These are all a part of the Kingdom of God when we understand that God reigns over all things.

From the coming of Jesus Christ to begin the kingdom, through the whole story of redemptive history and the Church, we see a clear picture of the Gospel.

This "kingdom of God" is mentioned in the Scriptures in several different ways throughout the Old and New Testaments:

**Matthew 6:33**, **Mark 1:14-15**, and **Luke 4:43** all refer to the "kingdom of Christ."

**Matthew 13:41** and **20:21** refer to the "kingdom of Christ and God."

**Ephesians 5:5** refers to the "kingdom of David."

**Mark 11:10** refers to "the kingdom."

**Matthew 3:2**, 4:17, 8:12, 13:14, and 13:29 refer to the "kingdom of heaven."

For Jesus, the kingdom of God is the Reign of God's love over the hearts of the people based on unconditional love for one another.

Therefore, Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom contained two key elements:-

1. Jesus called God, Abba ie. in today's term Daddy. Not just the kingly creator of the universe/giver of the law; was an intimate and passionately loving parent.
2. We are all brothers and sisters. Need to love our neighbor i.e. to love all not just fellow Jews in Jesus' time. Jesus radically changed this belief to the point of telling them they must love even their enemies. Story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 29-37)

Luke 17:20-21 - "The kingdom of God is among you" suggests two things:-

Jesus himself possesses the Kingdom of God and has been called by God to make it real in the world.

As resurrected Jesus is present among us today, we can truly get in touch with God by looking deeply within ourselves. When we spend time reflecting on ourselves and our life experiences, we will often find the wisdom that we continually seem to seek from sources outside ourselves.

The whole idea of the Kingdom of God was central to everything Jesus said and did. For instance, many of His parables begin with the statement “The Kingdom of God is like...” (a mustard seed, the sowing of seed, baking bread, etc.).

Jesus’ miracles were signs of the presence of the Kingdom that Jesus was establishing among people.

**THE HIDDEN TREASURE AND THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE**



*“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”*

*“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”*



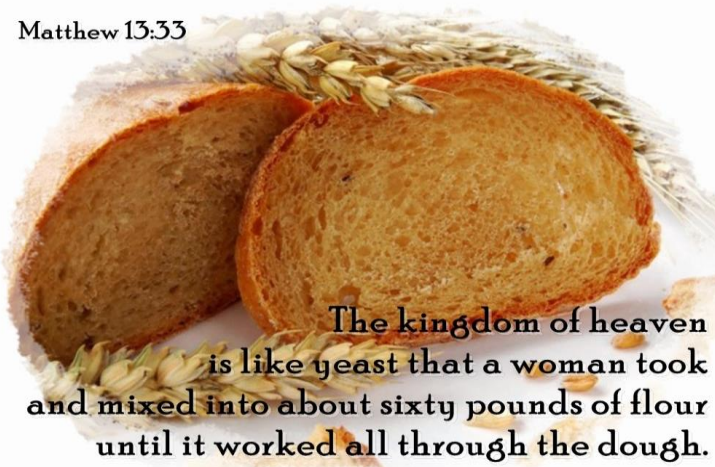
Matthew 13:44-46

**Parable of a Mustard Seed**



Parable of a Mustard Seed  
Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. Matthew 13 31-32

Matthew 13:33



The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.



“And He said, “The Kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. 27 He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.”

Mark 4:26-29

**Matthew 13:24-25**

Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away.”



**Matthew 13:47-48**



*47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: 48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.*

## **Handout 8 A (Answers)**

So, as we are all commissioned by God to speak on God's behalf, let us try to answer the questions, as we believe God would answer it.

## **Handout 8 B**

To make us understand each Beatitudes the questions are asked before each one:-

Who do you know that possesses these strengths? Whom would you call blessed?

### **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven**

1. Who had lots of talent but refuse to be a bragger (boastful)?

### **Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted**

2. With whom can you share your deepest emotions – joy and silliness as well as sadness and anger – without feeling laughed at or embarrassed?

### **Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth**

3. Who do not fight for their own advantage?

### **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled**

4. Who do you know that tries always to be fair and just?

### **Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy**

5. Who refuses to ignore or tease someone who is struggling and needs help? Who chooses to extend mercy rather than blame or scorn?

### **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**

6. Who do you know that quietly and steadily tries to put God first in his or her life?

### **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God**

7. Who do you know that seeks peaceful solutions and refuses to get even or seek revenge?

### **Blessed are those who have been persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven**

8. Who do you know that is willing to face ridicule, teasing, trouble, or inconvenience to see that the right thing is done?

# Beatitudes

Which of these beatitude actually helps others? Which only makes a difference to the person?

Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Depend on God for everything. Live a simple and obedient life.



Blessed are those who **mourn** for they shall be comforted.

Grieve over wrong-doing and evil that is done

Blessed are the **meek** for they will inherit the earth.

Humble/ gentle: don't fight for their own advantage

Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for what is right** for they will be filled.

Hope for justice/ fairness in the world, for people to live rightly



Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall obtain mercy.

Kind, forgiving and generous



Blessed are the **pure in heart** for they shall see God.

Clean from sin, in thoughts and actions



Blessed are the **peacemakers** for they will be called children of God.

Living peacefully and promoting peace, to bring people together



Blessed are those who are **persecuted in the cause of right**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Faithful to Jesus even if that means suffering



## The Beatitudes are

- **Attitudes**: they tell you what you should BE like, rather than what you should DO. You have to be willing to put yourself last, and put up with others. You have to be more generous than it is fair to be.



In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells his disciples and the people listening, not to put their lighted candles under a bucket or cover it up so it can't be seen. If

you want light, you need to put your lamp where it can shine. That means our individual light. If we have talents, God doesn't want us to hide them, but to use them.

But the Beatitudes are also **Blessings**: They all begin "Blessed are the..." This is because in return for your generosity, and putting yourself last, you are given the happiness of being close to God and having the Kingdom of Heaven within you - that nothing can take away.

## 1 SAMUEL 22 – PLEASE READ & FIND THE ANSWERS.

- 22:1 - David departed from Achish the king of Gath and escaped to the cave of what?  
 Adullam     Boaz     Caleb     Daniel
- 22:2 - Everyone who was in distress, in debt, or bitter in soul, gathered to David and he became commander over about how many men?  
 200     400     600     800
- 22:3-4 - David went to Mizpeh of Moab and asked if who could stay with the king?  
 Saul's daughters     David himself     Jonathan     David's father and mother
- 22:5 - Which prophet told David to depart his stronghold and go to the land of Judah?  
 Elijah     Asher     Samuel     Gad
- 22:5 - When David departed his stronghold he went into what forest?  
 Horeb     Nob     Hereth     Sherwood
- 22:6 - When Saul heard that David was discovered, he was sitting at Gibeah under what kind of tree?  
 sycamore     tamarisk     oak     olive
- 22:7-8 - Which tribe was Saul speaking to when he accused them of conspiring against him in the matter of Jesse's son David?  
 Benjamin     Reuben     Judah     Levi
- 22:9 - Who saw David the son of Jesse go to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub at Nob?  
 Bildad the Shuhite     Ahimelech the priest     Saul     Doeg the Edomite
- 22:10 - Who inquired of the Lord for David and gave him provisions and the sword of Goliath?  
 Bildad the Shuhite     Ahimelech the priest     Saul     Doeg the Edomite
- 22:11-12 - Who was the father of the priest Ahimelech?  
 Ahitub     Abiathar     Aaron     Asaph
- 22:17 - What did Saul tell the guard and servants of the king to do to Ahimelech and the priests of the Lord?  
 put them in prison     replace them     kill them     honor them
- 22:18-19 - At Saul's command, Doeg put the city of Nob to the sword and killed how many persons who wore the linen ephod?  
 75     80     85     90
- 22:20-23 - Which of the sons of Ahimelech escaped death and fled to David for safety?  
 Abner     Abiathar     Molech     Ahimelech Jr.