



for KING *&*
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Study Guide

“For the King and the Kingdom”

Sermon Series (Part 1)

From the first days of Jesus’ ministry He proclaimed, “The Kingdom of God is at hand.” This was the driving message of His earthly ministry- that God’s Kingdom, in His coming, is now here. We hear about Jesus’ Kingdom often but we have a lot of confusion about what His Kingdom is exactly. God’s intent is for Christians to live first as part of His Kingdom in every aspect of our life. What are the promises of the Kingdom and how do we live as part of His Kingdom everyday and everywhere? Join Pastor Eric Laverentz as we talk about living for King Jesus and His Kingdom in this transformational sermon series!

Part 1

October 23 Mark 1:14-20	What is the Kingdom
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October 30 Mark 1:14-20	Kingdom Work
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November 6 Mark 1:29-34	Kingdom Families
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November 20 Matthew 6:25-34	Kingdom Provision
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Part 2

November 27 Matthew 13:24-33	Kingdom Mindset
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December 4 Matthew 13:44-50	Kingdom Found
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December 11 John 18:33-38	The Other Kingdom
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December 18 2 Samuel 7:12-17	An Everlasting Kingdom
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1 SHARE who you are

2 CARE for one another

3 READ and PRACTICE scripture

4 PRAY together

5 INVEST in people

6 SERVE community

7 CREATE and SEND leaders

NEW LIFE,
through **JESUS,**
for **EDMOND**
and the **WORLD.**

Lesson 1- Kingdom Work

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Mark 1:14-20

After 30 years of a rather ordinary life, Jesus was ready to begin the active phase of His ministry. His first proclamation was both simple and earth-shaking, "The Kingdom of God is at hand." We are told that one of His first acts was to call men to give up everything and follow Him. This makes sense because entrusting our life to the Kingdom of God, meaning giving ourselves over to His will and actively working to accomplish His will on Earth, should radically change how we live. Are we followers of Jesus, or do we merely presume on His grace, settling for a life that looks a lot like people who have little knowledge of Him at all?

1. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand"? Why was this ultimately a claim about Himself? (**John 14:8-11**) What two things does Jesus command us to do in response to His coming Kingdom? (**Mark 1:15**) Which of these do you think is most difficult for you? Why is repentance so difficult for us? What did Jesus' cousin John the Baptist teach about those who choose not to repent? (**Matthew 3:7-10**) Is there any way you presume upon God's grace?

2. Where did Jesus first meet some of these men? (**John 1:35-41**) The location of John's baptisms was about 125 miles from where these men lived and worked, does this mean Jesus was deliberate about calling these men? Why do you think so? Is God deliberate or haphazard in who He calls? (**Ephesians 1:3-6**) What does God's persistence in calling you and me imply about His plan for us? How does this make our response to

His call so important?

3. What did Jesus command Simon, Andrew, James, and John to do, and what did He promise He would make them? (**Mark 1:17**) How was this similar and different from their family business? How did they respond? Since they had known Jesus for some time, do you think they had been thinking about following Him? Why or why not? Why would it be surprising if they had not already been thinking about following Him? Does the fact that he had followed John the Baptist for a while matter?

4. What did Jesus ask these men to give up? (**Mark 1:20**) Why would this have been so difficult? Do you think their families were excited about them leaving the family business? Why is repenting and believing the Gospel sometimes so difficult? Is everyone always excited about this step in our life? What did Jesus promise Peter (Simon) about those who give up a lot to follow Him? (**Luke 18:28-30**) Why do you think Peter asked Jesus that question?

NEXT STEPS

Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and reveal to you somewhere you need to repent. Pray Psalm 51:1-8 if you need the words. Share the answer to these prayers with your micro-group or small group.

Lesson 2- Kingdom Family

And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

Mark 1:29–34

1. What was the problem with Jesus leaving the healing and teaching at the synagogue to go to Simon and Andrew's home? (**Mark 1:30**) Was Jesus daunted by this problem? What was His response to her illness? Was Jesus afraid to be near her? How do we often respond to people's illnesses, sickness, troubles and sin? How is responding by prayer to illness, sickness, troubles and sin a Kingdom response?
2. What does her healing enable Simon's mother-in-law to do? (**Mark 1:31**). What does Jesus' healing in our life enable to do? Do we always do it? Why or why not? How do we know the word about Jesus spread quickly? Where did the people go to be healed? What do we see Jesus already doing to Simon and Andrew's home? What kind of people were coming to them? Do you think everyone was thrilled about this? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think Jesus just didn't do all his healing and teaching at the synagogue, which was much bigger? Do you think the leaders of the synagogue would have welcomed such a crowd? What was the tradition about unclean people such as these? (**Leviticus 14:43-47**) Who are the 'unclean' today? How would you react to having a bunch of 'unclean' strangers filling your home? Can you think of anyone 'unclean' with whom you need to share Jesus? How would welcoming them to your home be an effective tactic?

4. The demons knew Jesus' name and knew who He is, yet still opposed Him? Why? Why do you think Jesus' enemies accused Him of having a demon, and how did Jesus make their assertion appear ludicrous? (**Matthew 12:22-30**) Why do you think Jesus did not allow the demons to speak His name? Did Jesus do similar things with people? Why? (**Matthew 8:4**)

NEXT STEPS

Find time with your family this week to read this Scripture passage and pray. Ask them what it would look like to befriend someone who is 'unclean.' Pray for an opportunity to do that.

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Lesson 3- Kingdom Provision

...Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Matthew 6:25-34

In the middle of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus' best-known teaching across the world, there is a radical statement of trust in the effective work of the Kingdom in our life. Jesus challenges us to trust God for our daily sustenance, shelter, and even the clothes on our back. Instead of laboring and looking for these things, He commands us to seek the Kingdom of God above all else. When we do, we will not lose out on what we need, but instead will receive that and more. Jesus' promise is that when we seek heaven, we get Earth thrown in. He warns us against excessive concern for the future, but instead says to train our focus on the immediate and allowing that to guide our lives.

1. What do you think of Jesus' first rhetorical question, "Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?" (**Matthew 6:25**) How does this question set the tone for the whole of his teaching here? How does Jesus respond to this question? How does nature show us our obsessive attempts at self-preservation, protection, and prosperity? (**Matthew 6:26-31**) Is there anything you are holding back from God? What is preventing you from seeking His Kingdom first?

2. What things might we add to the list we seek to achieve on our own at the expense of the Kingdom of God? What does Jesus promise about our needs and seeking His Kingdom in Matthew 7:7-8? Why do you think our Heavenly Father is so willing to provide for us? Can you remember a time when you witnessed God radically provide? What did that feel like?

3. Jesus says when we obsess over food, clothing, and other needs we betray a lack of faith (**Matthew 6:30-31**). Do you find this statement hard to agree with? Do you have a need that you have allowed Jesus the space and time to address, and it still gone unfulfilled? What does Luke 18:1-8 teach us about persistence in prayer? Is there a prayer request in which you need to persist?

4. Is your reliance on the Kingdom apparent from how you live? Do people who don't know Jesus live a lot like you? What does Jesus promise for those who seek the Kingdom of God above all else? (**Matthew 6:33**) What is an area where you would like to see the Kingdom of God break free in your life? Have you ever committed to prayer? Why or why not?

5. Is there anything pertaining to the future about which you are anxious? What does Jesus say about that? (**Matthew 6:34**) Why do you think Jesus wants us to focus so much on the present? What is the danger about attempting to over-manage our future? (**Luke 12:13-21**). Can you relate to the rich fool in that parable? Why or why not?

NEXT STEPS

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you take an audit of your thought life. Every time you have a concern about the future or the unknown, take a minute to pray and give it over to the Lord. Write down Matthew 6:33-34 and keep it near to remind you of what to ask God for when you pray about your anxiety. Share with your small group how this audit went.

Lesson 4- Kingdom Mindset

He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

Judges 16:18-22

Sitting along the seashore one day, Jesus told the crowds several parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. In one of the parables, Jesus taught about the problem of evil, particularly evil people in the Church, among the faithful and how we are to trust God to handle the question of evil. Then Jesus moved on to how the coming of the Kingdom impacts the world. Only a little spot of the Kingdom changes the world dramatically.

1. Do you ever struggle with the presence of evil in this world, particularly evil people? Why is it so hard to bear people who do bad things, especially in the Church? Who does Jesus say brings the evil people into the Church? (**Matthew 13:25, Matthew 13:38-39**) Who are the good, grain-bearing plants and who sows them? (**Matthew 13:37-38**) How does it make you feel to know that Jesus sowed you to bear good fruit?

2. Who removes the 'sons of the evil one' from the world and when? (**Mat-**

thew 13:39-42). What happens to them? Are you surprised that God waits to remove them from the world? Why or why not? What is the danger of Christians trying to ‘purge the evil’ from our midst? Have you ever experienced this? What does the Word promise will happen the ‘sons of the evil one’? (**Matthew 13:41-42**) What does the Word promise will happen to the righteous? (**Matthew 13:43**) Why should this be a great encouragement or comfort?

3. Why is Jesus comparing the Kingdom of Heaven to a mustard seed important? (**Matthew 13:32**) Why should this encourage us? What else does Jesus compare to a mustard seed and how effective is that little amount? (**Luke 17:6**) Why do you think Jesus makes a point about how something small can make a big impact on the world? What does this teach us about how Jesus thinks about our life, and how effective we can be with the Holy Spirit? (**John 14:12-14**). What is the connection between the Kingdom of Heaven on earth and the Holy Spirit? (**1 Corinthians 6:19**)

4. What is the final comparison Jesus makes to the Kingdom of Heaven? (**Matthew 13:33**). What does leaven do to dough and what does this point out about the Kingdom of Heaven? Who is the presence of the Kingdom of Heaven in our life? And how do we receive Him more fully? (**Luke 11:13**)

NEXT STEPS

Spend 15 minutes a day every day this week cultivating the presence of the Kingdom of Heaven in your life through daily prayer, Scripture reading, and even getting out of your comfort zone to serve someone. Make note of how the world seems different with even just a little mustard seed of the Kingdom alive in you.

Verses for Part 1

10/23 Mark 1:14-20	11/14 Matthew 6:4-15
10/24 Mark 1:21-28	11/15 Matthew 6:16-24
10/25 Mark 2:1-12	11/16 Matthew 6:25-34
10/26 Mark 2:13-22	11/17 Matthew 7:1-13
10/27 Mark 2:23-28	11/18 Matthew 7:14-28
10/28 Mark 3:1-12	11/19 Isaiah 25
10/29 Mark 5:1-15	11/20 Matthew 13:24-33
10/30 Mark 1:29-34	11/21 Joshua 1:1-9
10/31 Psalm 45:6-17	11/22 Joshua 1:10-17
11/1 Daniel 2:31-45	11/23 Joshua 2
11/2 Mark 5:21-43	11/24 Joshua 3
11/3 Mark 6:1-6	11/25 Joshua 4
11/4 Mark 6:30-43	11/26 Joshua 5:13-6:27
11/5 Mark 6:45-51	11/27 Part Two Begins
11/6 Mark 6:25-34	
11/7 Matthew 5:1-11	
11/8 Matthew 5:13-20	
11/9 Matthew 5:21-32	
11/10 Matthew 5:33-47	
11/11 Obadiah 18:19-21	
11/12 Jeremiah 1:4-10	
11/13 ---	