

STUDY 1



Sunday 15th April 2018

Matthew 4:17-25

The transforming touch of Heaven

1. THE SLOGAN OF THE KINGDOM.

The '**Kingdom**' word was the central heartbeat of Jesus' ministry. It is a word that continually crops up in the gospels. Jesus was constantly pointing men and women to God's Kingdom and life than is to be lived under the rule of God. The concept of 'the Kingdom' is not a phrase used in the OT but the power of God's rule and His authority over all creation is certainly indicated. Ps 103.19; 97.1.

- How do you understand the Biblical idea of 'Kingdom'? Share some of your thinking. Over the weeks we will be unpacking different aspects of this crucial theme.

There is a King who rules over a Kingdom. God is described as King – *the Lord reigns*. Take Psalm 145.8-13 and see evidence of God's ruling activity, what is said about 'the kingdom'?

The central message of Jesus. This was about God's rule. Jesus commenced his ministry by announcing in Mark 1.14-15 that the time had arrived and the Kingdom of God was near. In Matt 4.23-25 there is evidence of the Kingdom of God through significant life change for many individuals.

The Kingdom is not some geographical locality but the rule of King Jesus over our hearts and lives.

Graham Goldsworth defines **The Kingdom as God's people in God's place under God's rule enjoying God's blessing.**

Alan indicated that 'The Kingdom' is about the transforming touch of heaven. The sphere of heaven touching the sphere of earth and leaving the mark of God. Heaven comes down. When Jesus spoke to **Nicodemus** in John 3, Jesus referred to entering the Kingdom of God through being 'born again' or it can be translated 'born from above.'

King and His Kingdom

There was the great hope of Judaism that the Messiah would come.

John the Baptist expressed the revolutionary Kingdom life in Matthew 3.1-2.

Jesus' ministry was summarised in Matt 9.35 *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, **preaching the good news of the kingdom** and healing every disease and sickness.*

Jesus teaches about the Kingdom:

- **Through Parables** – There are at least 50 parables.
Take one of the parables about seeds, and see what it has to say concerning Kingdom life.
- **Through Prayer**- Is there a place for simply praying *Thy Kingdom Come*?
Look up the website www.thykingdomcome.global that the Archbishop runs as he calls the church to global prayer from 10-20th May.
How can we be involved in the spirit of global prayer?
- **Through Preaching** – briefly see how the Kingdom is mentioned throughout the Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5-7 (one of our studies will focus on the beatitudes).
In what ways do you see the Kingdom being central in Jesus' teaching?
In the beatitudes, in what way do we see the Kingdom as being present in the 'now' but also as being future, in the 'not yet'? For instance, Matt.5.3 is more about the 'now', whereas others have a 'future' perspective .. 'inheriting the earth', 'seeing God'.
- **Through Power Events** – in what ways were the healing miracles and deliverance from evil spirits evidence of the Kingdom?

We are to proclaim the Kingdom. Observe what Jesus said to the 72 who were sent out in Luke 10:1-9.

FOR YOUR NOTES