



# KINGDOM

## Concepts

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## Mankind's Number 1 Priority

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33*

The pursuit of things never guarantees the acquisition of things. However, Jesus states, that by seeking first the Kingdom of God, all these things are simply added to us. How do we get to a place where all things are added to us? The secret is in seeking. What are we seeking? What are we looking for?

The first instruction given to us by Jesus is to seek. The word seek is a multifaceted word that is directly connected to our desires, pursuits, actions, motivations, expectancy, learning, understanding and reasoning. To seek is to pursue, study, explore, understand by learning, look for, inquire about, to pursue in order to find by thinking and meditating on. Seekers are motivated by desire to obtain. They possess a passion for the object of their desire. As we can see, seeking requires action.

Hebrews 11:6 God is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him. Notice, the reward is not necessarily in the finding, but in the seeking. How different would our lives look if we really went after this truth?

- **Kingdom** = a kingdom is the sovereign rulership and governing influence of a king over His territory, impacting it with His will, His intent, and purpose, manifesting a culture and society reflecting the king's nature, values and morals.
- **Righteousness** = right alignment with authority.

## Seeing into the Kingdom

*John 3:3 Jesus replied, "I assure you: Unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

*John 3:12 If I have told you about things that happen on earth and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about things of heaven? (HCSB)*

Jesus told Nicodemus, you cannot see the kingdom of God unless you are born again. In other words, sight is one of the first natural benefits of being born again. Many will postpone seeing the reality of the Kingdom of God to one day in the sweet bye in bye. However, we can see from the conversation that He was not referring to after we die. Look at verse 12, "If I have told you about things that happen on earth and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about things of heaven?"



# The Alchemy of the Model Prayer

*The disciples of Christ never asked Him how to preach, teach, or do miracles; but they did do all that! One specific thing they asked Jesus, "teach us how to pray." Why? Because when Jesus prayed He got results. Do you want results when you pray? Follow the model of Jesus.*

The model prayer that Jesus taught His disciples is found in Matthew 6:5—15 and Luke 11:1—13. When you pray this prayer, think about it, don't just rush through it.

"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

Who are we addressing our prayers to? We are praying to, "Our Father", the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and He is our Father. We are not orphans, we are not alone, we are identified in Christ. If we share the same Father, then Jesus is our elder brother. Imagine with me if you will, the Lord Jesus Christ as our big brother. I can't even get past that first line "OUR Father" without getting wrecked! Wow! Holy is Your name. When you declare the holiness of the name of our father you are actually coming into alignment and agreement with the angels surrounding the throne who cry day and night, "holy, holy, holy." When you say, Holy is Your name, you are coming into agreement with the sound of heaven. At this point you are actually engaging worship in the heavenlies. The

technology of ascension is released in the acknowledgement and declaration of His holiness.

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." This is a confession of consent that authorizes heaven to access, interact, and transform our lives so that it will be on earth in our lives the same way it is in heaven. This is coming into greater alignment with heavens agenda for our lives.

"Give us this day our daily bread." This is the place where we are not troubled about tomorrow, but are present, living in this moment. I like to partake of communion at this point, understanding and discerning that Jesus is the bread of life, sent down from heaven.

"Forgive us our debts (sins) as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." We must see here the connection between forgiveness and deliverance. Forgiveness is a choice every single day that we make, both to receive and give. So, forgiveness is the conduit in which our deliverance flows. We can't have deliverance without forgiveness. Think about the wording, "forgive us as we forgive." There's a connection here between our forgiveness and the way we forgive others. The closing line of the

model prayer is the declaration and acknowledgement, "Yours is the Kingdom, power, and glory forever, Amen." This is a kingdom prayer! The kingdom is His, all power is His, all glory belongs to Him! So, what is a kingdom? A kingdom is the sovereign rein, rulership, and governing influence of a king over His territory, impacting it with His will, intent, and purpose; manifesting a culture and society in His citizens that reflect the Kings nature, values, and morals. We are saying, Jesus is King! We want His rein, rulership, and governing influence in our lives, impacting us, transforming us with His will, intent, and purpose. Insomuch that as citizens of His Kingdom, we reflect in our culture a life that manifest His nature, morals, and values.

When His kingdom is mirrored in our lives, His power and glory can be displayed. Power is the explosive, unstoppable ability to do, whereas glory is weight of His authority to

steward with Kingdom results. When the Kingdom of God is manifested sick bodies are healed, lives are restored, strategies are received, cities and regions are revived, and the gifts of the Spirit are in full operation.

Often we pray for revival, renewal, transformation, healing, wholeness, peace, recourses, and so much more. If only we realized that when we seek His Kingdom, and function from His Kingdom, we get all that and more. What we are really after, what we really need is the manifestation of His kingdom in our lives, city, region, nation, and around the world. Out of His kingdom flows power, and glory forever. The good news is that as a believer, the Kingdom of God is inside of you (Luke 17:21). It's in you, waiting to get out! When we pray the words of this model prayer we begin to authorize, activate, and accelerate the influence of His kingdom, what is on the inside of us, to be manifest outside of us impacting culture and society with His will.

## Righteousness, Peace, And Joy—That's the Kingdom of God

*Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. (HCSB)*

- ⇒ Righteousness = correct alignment with the government of God.
- ⇒ Peace = inward confidence of the goodness of God
- ⇒ Joy = an outward expression of the goodness of



# The Lack of Kingdom Leadership

*Matthew 9:35 - 36 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news (the Gospel) of the kingdom and curing all kinds of disease and every weakness and infirmity. 36 When He saw the throngs, He was moved with pity and sympathy for them, because they were bewildered (harassed and distressed and dejected and helpless), like sheep without a shepherd. (AMPC)*

Did you notice what He was teaching? He was teaching and proclaiming the gospel of the KINGDOM (verse 35). Every parable, every time Jesus publicly spoke, He talked about the Kingdom. As He taught the KINGDOM, the sick were healed and diseases departed. Where the KINGDOM of Heaven is proclaimed, the KINGDOM will be manifest. Jesus also identifies the problem in Matthew 9:36. The lack of a shepherd (leadership), that's why the sheep were scattered, harassed and felt helpless. The Romans had Caesar, governors, those with the title of religious leader, priest and so forth. Yet Jesus says, the problem here is there's no leadership. That proposes a very serious problem. How did Jesus define leadership? Kingdom leadership is servant leadership. Servant leadership seeks to serve, rather than being served.

- ⇒ Leadership is influence but is not limited to influence.
- ⇒ Leadership is a mindset, or an attitude, but is not limited to a mindset or attitude.
- ⇒ Leadership is clarity of vision and purpose, and yet is not defined by clarity of vision and purpose alone.
- ⇒ Leadership exists to serve, rather than to be served.
- ⇒ Leadership involves and promotes others instead of promoting one's self.
- ⇒ Everyone is a leader although everyone does not see themselves as a leader.
- ⇒ A true leader is always growing and increasing.
- ⇒ A true leader doesn't need a title or even an official "position" to be effective.
- ⇒ Leadership begins within you. How you see and treat others and most importantly, how you see and treat yourself.

# Kingdom Leadership

In a world of staged reality shows, photo shopped images, and icons of grandeur personalities we are all searching, seeking and striving for something more. What is "the more" that we are really after? What is it about our own lives that we are unsatisfied with?

What the world really needs is authentic sons and daughters of God who have their identity in Christ and who will remain hidden in Christ. Totally surrendered to the will of Our Father, sent, and led by Holy Spirit to make visible the invisible Kingdom of Heaven that is at hand. Think about this, Kingdom (dominion) is what was lost in the Garden of Eden, the reality of a kingdom is what was restored by the Lord Jesus Christ, and a Kingdom is what we are all really in search of.

Leadership has been defined as the ability to influence others, the ability to obtain followers, the position of leading a group or organization, and so much more. We understand that leadership determines effectiveness and ultimately we are all following someone. No matter where we are in life right now, good or bad, it's the sum total of who we are following. John C. Maxwell said it best when he made the statement, "Everything rises or falls on leadership."

The leadership style of Jesus is so much different than most leadership styles modeled today. Jesus introduced leadership concepts and principals that reflected the Kingdom of Heaven—servant leadership.

Jesus was the most successful leader ever on the earth. Why is leadership so important and powerful? It has been said...

- ⇒ Nothing happens without leadership.
- ⇒ Nothing changes without leadership.
- ⇒ Nothing develops without leadership.
- ⇒ Nothing improves without leadership.
- ⇒ Nothing in life is corrected without leadership.
- ⇒ Nothing advances without leadership.
- ⇒ Nothing succeeds without leadership.

We are all being led by someone, directly or indirectly. Who's leading you? Who's following you?



# Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven

*Matthew 13:11 And He replied to them, To you it has been given to know the secrets and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.*

In the parable of the sower (Matthew 13 & Mark 4), we see 4 types of hearts (soils) the seed, which is the word of God is planted in. The purpose of a parable is not to reveal a truth, but to hide a truth. Why would He want to hide a truth? Because you are accountable for the truth you know. Everyone is not ready, so Jesus taught in parables. The ones who wanted to know what truth was being revealed would ask, and Jesus would explain.

Jesus says in Mark 4:13 concerning the parable of the sower and I paraphrase, "If you can understand this parable, you can understand all parables." In this parable we can see what the enemy is really after. The enemy is after the word, because it is the word of God that will produce lasting results, eternal results in our lives. I have determined, if the Word cannot produce it, if it didn't originate from the spoken and revealed word of God, I don't want it!

The mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven are revealed in the 4 types of soils. One seed, 4 types of soils. The seed is the WORD! It is the seed that produces results. We determine what that seed does in our life according to the response we give. Our response to the Word reflects what type of soil we have in our heart.

## The 4 Types of Soil (In our Heart)

1. The Wayside Soil – you hear it, but you do not

understand it; the wicked one comes immediately and takes the seed. Anything you do not understand the enemy has access to take away. Proverbs 4:7...in all your getting, get understanding. Wayside folks do not even try to understand. They have no interest in the things of God. You will never change your belief system until your belief system can't produce what you're desiring.

2. The Shallow or Stony Soil – you hear it, joyfully receive it; but since your shallow, Jesus says, offence keeps the seed from producing fruit. Three weapons the enemy uses at this stage. Affliction, persecution, and offence are the weapons the enemy uses at this stage. How easy are you offended? Does persecution stop you in your tracks? Will affliction make you give up?

3. The Weed or Thorny Soil – you hear it, but the cares of the world, deceitfulness of riches choke out the seed and becomes unfruitful. Cares of the world, deceitfulness of riches, and lust of other things are the 3 weapons the enemy uses to choke out the word at this stage. Cares of this world – The Greek word here is distractions and anxiety. Deceitfulness of riches – Thinking if I just had more money my life would be better. Money is a magnifier. What we need is the ability to steward correctly what God has given. Lust for other things – More things is not the answer. The answer is a greater revelation of the resurrected Jesus Christ! Lust is an illegitimate way to fulfill a legitimate need. Matthew 6:33 Seek first the Kingdom of God, and righteousness and all these things will be added to you!

4. Good Ground – you hear it, you get understanding and produce fruit; 30, 60, 100-fold.

# Lord of the Harvest

*Matthew 9:37 - 38 Then He said to His disciples, The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 So pray to the Lord of the harvest to force out and thrust laborers into His harvest. (AMPC)*

Don't try to reap the harvest without first going to the Lord of the Harvest and get the equipment needed to harvest. Different types of harvest will require different methods of harvesting. You don't harvest a strawberry the same way you harvest a potato, or corn.

⇒ Pray, the Lord of the harvest would send laborers into His harvest.

⇒ The harvest is the Lord's!

⇒ Ask, "What field can/will You send me in?" What tools will that field require? How can I become a specialist in that field/assignment?

The problem is not with the harvest. The harvest has always been abundant. Let's work together to ensure there's no lack of laborers in His vineyard and get the right equipment to harvest the field we are in.