

When The Kingdom Comes
“Who is King of Your Kingdom?”
The Sermon on the Mount #8
Matthew 7:15 - 29

INTRODUCTION

When we consider the kingdoms that influence us, we see that there is a distinction between “kingdoms of the world” and the kingdom of heaven. It is vital that we recognize the difference and make sound choices about where we place our allegiance. This portion of the Sermon on the Mount gives us guidance on how we evaluate the competing kingdoms and how we can evaluate ourselves as well.

Ice Breaker (Optional – 8 MIN):

Consider a group or team with which you had a strong bond – perhaps in scouts, a sports team, or military service. Describe your allegiance to that group.

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Q1. Read Matthew 7:15-20, 1 Timothy 1:3-4

Jesus warns us about false prophets, who are wolves among His sheep. What kind of “fruit” would you look at to evaluate a prophet? How would you define “good” versus “bad” fruit?

bad (sapros) used in “bad tree” means rotten or putrid, corrupt or unfit
bad (ponēros) used in “bad fruit”, can mean full of labors, annoyances, hardships or evil

Q2. Read Matthew 7:21-23, , James 1:22, Luke 11:42

In these sobering passages we see that many who thought they would be accepted into God’s kingdom will be rejected. What will be the standard by which they are judged? How does “doing good things” for God become a poor substitute for “really knowing” God?

to know (ginōskō) implies an intimate level of knowledge

Q3. Read Matthew 7:24-27, John 14:15, 1 John 2:3, 1 John 5:3

Jesus gives us instruction on how to be firmly established in His kingdom. What is the natural consequence, and evidence of, truly knowing God? What will it mean for you to build on the rock?

Q4. Read Matthew 7:28-29, Matthew 28:18-20

If you are seeking a king to follow, you look for someone who has the power of authority (*exousia*). Jesus demonstrated that authority when he taught, and that teaching lives on today through His Word, the Bible, in the power of His Holy Spirit. What can you do on a daily basis to reflect God’s authority in your life?

Q5. Read Matthew 7:7, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 5:6

Not only do we choose which king we follow, but we must also pursue his kingdom with determination. In what ways do you pursue God’s kingdom in your life? What do you find holds you back?

WRAP-UP

There is no other kingdom more deserving of our allegiance than God’s Kingdom. We need to be discerning “fruit inspectors”, not running after something less than God’s best, and settling for doing what may just look good. It is our intimate knowledge of Jesus that will naturally result in rock solid faith, obedience in our lives, glory for God, and personal blessings beyond compare.

Memory Verse

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24 NIV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs:

Challenge:

Ask God to help you clearly discern what He is calling you to do, and not to do for His kingdom. Then set aside what is not from Him (even if it is a “good work”) and follow whole-heartedly toward becoming who He designed you to be.

Q1.

Matthew 7:15-20 NIV - 15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

1 Timothy 1:3-4 NIV - 3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer 4 nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work--which is by faith.

Q2.

Matthew 7:21-23 NIV - 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

James 1:22 NIV - 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Luke 11:42 NIV - 42 "Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

Q3.

Matthew 7:24-27 NIV - 24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine

and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

John 14:15 NIV - 15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

1 John 2:3 NIV - 3 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.

1 John 5:3 NIV - 3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

Q4. Matthew 7:28-29 NIV - 28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Matthew 28:18-20 NIV - 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Q5.

Matthew 7:7 NIV - 7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Matthew 6:33 NIV - 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 5:6 NIV - 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.