

Living in the Kingdom of God

We're concluding our study on The Sermon on the Mount. We've tried to look at what life will look like "*When the Kingdom Comes.*" The fundamental question for us is this: "*Who is King of Your Kingdom?*"

- **Day One - Read Matthew 7:15-20**

Why is it important to be very careful about who it is that will speak into our life? What criteria should we use to determine who we will listen to? What "fruit" will be seen in the life of a "false prophet?" What made "the Bereans" such wise people? (Acts 17:11)

Pray – Ask God to help you be discerning and wise, and always evaluate a person's message in light of God's Word. Ask for courage to share it as God leads.

- **Day Two - Read Matthew 7:21-23**

How does "doing good things" for God, sometimes become a poor substitute for really "knowing God?" In what ways is it easier? Why do we sometimes settle for "*doing for God*" over "*being with God*?"

Pray – Ask God to help you learn to really *seek him*, that you might come to really *know him*.

- **Day Three - Read Matthew 7:24-27**

Most of us have heard this parable about the "Wise and Foolish Builder" for most of our lives. What would it mean for you to "build on the sand?" Think long and hard about this – it's a matter of "life and death!" What will it mean for you to "build on the rock?" Are you? Will you? How will you? Nothing is more important!

Pray – Ask God to help you to see things clearly in your life. Your values, your priorities, your affections, and your possessions. Are you seeking God's kingdom above all else? Ask God for courage & faith!

New Life Lessons
July 14th & 15th, 2012
Pastor Ron Salsbury

"Who is King of Your Kingdom?"

The Sermon on the Mount– Part 8

Matthew 7:15-29

Matthew 7:24-25 (MSG) ²⁴ "These words I speak to you are **not incidental additions to your life ... They are foundational words, words to build a life on.** If you **work these words into your life**, you are like a **smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock.** ²⁵ Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but **nothing moved that house.** It was **fixed to the rock.**

Matthew 7:28-29 (NLT) ²⁸ **When Jesus had finished** saying these things, **the crowds were amazed** at his teaching, ²⁹ **for he taught with real authority**—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

The Kingdom's of This World

- **Political** Romans 13:1-7; Luke 7:1-6
- **Economic** Matthew 6:24; Ephesians 6:12
- **Social** Matthew 7:13; Proverbs 29:25
- **Cultural** 1 John 2:15-17; Colossians 3:17; 4:5
- **Personal** Luke 9:23; Revelation 3:20

Ephesians 2:1-2, 4-5 (NIV) ¹ You were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed **the ways of this world** and of **the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work** in those who are disobedient. ⁴ **But** because of his great love for us, **God**, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ **made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions—it is **by grace** you have **been saved.** John 18:36; Revelation 21:1-5a; Matthew 6:10

The Pursuit of the “Kingdom Life”

Matthew 5:6 (NIV) ⁶ **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.** Acts 17:27b

Matthew 6:33 (NLT) ³³ **Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.** Isaiah 45:3, 15; Jeremiah 29:13

Matthew 7:7 (NLT) ⁷ **“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.** Matthew 11:28-30; 13:1-23, 44-46; John 1:12; 3:16; Revelation 3:20

The Choices of Kingdom Living

1. Choosing Our Source of Authority. - Recognizing the Right Fruit.

Matthew 7:15-20 (NLT) ¹⁵ **“Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. ¹⁶ You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. ¹⁹ So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.** Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:42a; Hebrews 4:12; John 17:15-17; 1 Timothy 4:13—16; 1 Corinthians 12:7, 10; 14:3; 32-33; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21; Acts 20:28-30; Jude 1:12a, 16

1 Corinthians 2:13 (NIV) ¹³ **This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.**

Preaching Teaching Prophecy Meditation

Colossians 3:16a (NIV) ¹⁶ **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.**

2. Choosing Our Source of Life . - Keeping the Right Focus.

Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT) ²¹ **“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. ²² On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ ²³ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’**

John 17:3 (NIV) ³ **Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. Job 19:25; Psalm 46:10; Jeremiah 24:7; John 5:39-40; 2 Timothy 1:12; Philippians 3:10; 2 Peter 3:18; Matthew 18:20**

3. Choosing Our Source of Hope . - Choosing the Right Foundation.

Matthew 7:24-27 (NLT) ²⁴ **“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. ²⁶ But anyone who hears my teaching and ignores it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷ When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”**

Romans 8:35, 37, 39 (NLT) ³⁵ **Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.** John 16:33

Is Jesus Christ the King of Your Kingdom?