

Victory Hour

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Understanding the Kingdom: Matthew 6:33



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Introduction

“The kingdom of God is the reign of God in today’s world. The kingdom is the ultimate reality and sovereign movement of God in the universe. This is expressed in the transforming truth that Jesus Christ rules over all things and is evidenced by God’s supernatural work in and through believers in local churches. The kingdom of God must be the central life focus that every person should seek and align with in order to know the full and abundant life God created people to experience in Christ” (Gene Mims).

As Christians, it is imperative that we understand what it means to be a citizen of the kingdom of God. God is not only calling us to be saved, nor is he not only calling us to share the Gospel, but He is calling us to kingdom living. Jesus repeatedly taught about the Kingdom of God and often stated, “The Kingdom of God is at hand” (Matt. 4:17; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:43, 8:1, 9:2, 16:16; Acts 1:3, 8:12, 20:25, 28:23). However, the disciples did not understand and frequently questioned Jesus regarding the time of the manifestation of the Kingdom of God through the restoration of Israel (Matt. 24:3; Acts 1:6). The kingdom of God simply did not look like what they had expected. We too, can be guilty of missing the kingdom of God. We too can have preconceived ideas about what the Kingdom of God looks like. When the Pharisees asked Jesus when the Kingdom of God would appear, he told them the Kingdom of God would not necessarily be seen with the eye, but that the Kingdom of God was within them (Luke 17:20-21). In other words, in the words of Jonas Clark, “In the days of Jesus’ ministry everyone was looking at Christ’s dominion and missed the cross of Calvary” (p. 181). Today, we might be guilty of focusing on the cross (past) or His return (future) and miss the Kingdom of God (present).

- **Instructions Concerning the Kingdom (Matthew 6:33)**
 - The pursuit of the Kingdom
 - The priority of the Kingdom
 - The prize of the Kingdom
 - *Make the rule and reign of God the priority in your life and all you need will be provided.*

- **Four ways the Bible refers to the Kingdom of God**
 - The universal reign of God over all creation (Psalm 9:7-12; 47:2-3; 103:19; 145:11-12)
 - Everything under His domain
 - A direct reference to Israel
 - Theocracy: A nation ruled by God (Matt. 13:22-35; Luke 13:28-30)
 - Coming earthly reign of Christ at His return (Rev. 11:15; Rev. 12:10)
 - The present rule of Christ in the lives of people (Matt. 6:32-34; Mark 1:15; Luke 17:20-21)

- **What is the Kingdom of God?**
 - The sovereignty, reign, and rule of God
 - Sovereign (chief, supreme, ruler, independent)



- Reign (period of time in power, office, control)
 - Rule (govern, run, have power over, direct, manage)
 - The heavenly sphere of life in which God's Word and Spirit govern whose instrument on earth is the church (YOU)
 - The highest reach of our faith and lives
 - It is the arena where the person of the Lord is on full display
 - The place where the will of God is done without question
 - Where the Lord is magnified and glorified
- **What Does the Kingdom of God Look Like?**
 - A Portrait of the Kingdom
 - Where we long to be, free from sin, temptation, and the destruction of the world we see around us.
 - The grand, full view of all we are in Christ
 - The full revelation of the great purposes of a sovereign God, His nature, His dominion, and His rule.
 - The place of His universal and cosmic purposes overcoming the sin and rebellion of His children
 - The place where creation, redemption, His people, His purposes, and His power of all come together to make perfect sense to us as we experience His presence
 - Where heaven and earth meet in the person and reign of Christ
 - Everything is always right all the time
 - The beauty and glory of God where He is exalted and reigns
 - Where everything is perfect
 - Where the Lord rules and reigns and the angels attend to Him
- **What Does the Earth Look Like?**
 - Wars & rumors of wars
 - Famine across the land
 - Messed up lives
 - Death
 - Sickness & disease
 - Divorce
 - Drugs
 - Murder
- **Experience versus Reality (II Cor. 5:17; Eph. 1; Rom. 12:2)**
 - Your Experience
 - The physical realm
 - Your Reality
 - The spirit realm



- **The Danger of Having Single Vision**

- We will fail to see God at work around us
- We will have little confidence in what Christ has done, is doing, and will do
- We will try to do things for God and never experience Him doing things through us
- We will not pray effectively, go as commanded, give our lives, or endure the hardships of ministry as we must if we are to fulfill God's calling on our lives.

- **We Must Have Bifocal Vision**

- You are in the world but not of the world (John 15:19; John 17:16)
- Walk in our God given spiritual authority
 - Through the Word of God
 - Through Prayer
- See God's original plan
- Activate God's will on earth as it is in heaven