

22T09c Kingdom of God

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table. We have been talking about the most prominent topic in the New Testament, the kingdom of God. I know many of you are probably surprised by that. In fact, Jesus talks about the kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven more than any other topic, more than all other topics combined. The obvious next question is what is the kingdom of God. Well, Heaven, right? Well, yes, no or maybe and. Actually, Jesus starts much of His teaching with the phrase, “the Kingdom of God is like....”

But what, where, when is the Kingdom of God. Now that is the right question. And I know the Bible has the answer. So, today we are going to look at some parables of Jesus and see if we can answer some of these questions. What is the kingdom of God and where, when and how is Jesus talking about it.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Lord use me to share your message. If I say something in error, please let them remember what you wanted them to hear, not my errand words. Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Guide our discussion. We pay in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

Okay, here is a list of the parables from Jesus that begin with the phrase, “the kingdom is like...”

Luke 9 (Plough)

Luke 13 (Mustard Seed, Leaven)

Mark 4 (Mustard Seed)

Matthew 13 (Wheat & Tares, Mustard Seed, Leaven, Hidden Treasure, Pearl, Dragnet),

Matthew 18 (Unforgiving Servant)

Matthew 20 (Labors)

Matthew 22 (Marriage Feast)

Matthew 25 (Ten Bridesmaids, Talents)

I want to break these into a four groups,

- 1) Matthew 13 (Wheat and Mustard Seed) (also Luke 13) and Mark 4 (Seed)
- 2) Matthew 13 (Leaven, Hidden Treasure, Pearl and Dragnet) (also Luke 13, Mark 4)
- 3) Matthew 18/20/22 (Unforgiving Servant, Labors, Marriage Feast)
- 4) Matthew 25 (Ten Bridesmaids, Talents) & Luke 9 (Plough)

Today we will concentrate on group 1 of these parables,

- Wheat and Tares (Matthew 13:24-30)
- Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19)
- Seed (Mark 4:26-29)

I'm going to begin with the Wheat & Tares parable from Matthew 13. Matthew 13:24-30 (NKJ) ²⁴*Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. ²⁶But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. ²⁷So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’*

28He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' ' "

Jesus even explained this so we would have no trouble understanding, Matthew 13:36-43 (NKJV) *36Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." 37He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. 39The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. 40Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 41The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!*

Most of Jesus' parables have explanation from Jesus if we only take the time to read a little further in the text. Without going too deeply into the theology of this parable. Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is like a field but his explanation says very plainly the field is the world. Earth, this world is the field or as Jesus said, the world is the kingdom of heaven(or kingdom of God is you'd like). The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom and the bad seeds are the sons of the wicked one. The good and the bad are both in the same field, which is the kingdom of heaven. Right now, both good and bad people are in the world which is the kingdom of God according to Jesus. That is what he says. We are allowed to grow up together with those seeds, the sons of evil, These are the vast numbers of unsaved people around us. So, this parable clearly states that the world we live in today is the kingdom of God.

Next, I want to look at another agricultural parable about the Mustard Seed from Matthew 13. It is also found in Luke 13 and Mark 4. Let's read from Luke this time, Luke 13:18-19 (NKJV), *18Then He said, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? 19It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches."*

Now in Matthew 13:31-32(NKJ) *31Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, 32which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."*

Just to be clear here, Matthew says Kingdom of heaven but Luke and Mark say kingdom of God. They are the same thing. So how can the kingdom of God start out like the smallest seed and grow into this huge tree. This is the Kingdom of God growing on earth as it is in heaven. This is the Christian church growth model. Beginning small with Jesus and growing to include Christ followers from nearly every nation. The kingdom of God on earth is just like the mustard tree. Starting small and growing. This can't be about heaven, why would God reign in heaven grow, makes no sense. It can't be some future post 2nd coming of Christ, there will be no more growth once Jesus returns. So, yes, again Jesus is calling us the kingdom of God. We the followers of Jesus are the kingdom of God as he explains it.

Okay, Let's look quickly at the seed parable from Mark before we summarize. Mark 4:26-29 (NKJV) *26And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, 27and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. 29But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."*

How is the kingdom of God like a man scattering seed on the ground. This is a very similar to the wheat and tares parable. The earth is the kingdom of God, the seed is the gospel of the kingdom and we are the fruit or grain. God is waiting for His crops to fully mature in the earth before is harvests the kingdom of God, or the earth.

Did you see the consistent message about the kingdom of God Jesus was teaching. In the wheat & tares parable, the kingdom of God is the world. In the mustard seed parable, the kingdom of God grows like a mustard plant from tiny seed to huge tree. The only possible growth is the believers here on earth. And last we talked about the seed. In the seed parable, Jesus likens the kingdom of God to a seed that a farmer plants, then after some time the crops grow and are harvested.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Thank you are every story, every message in the Bible. Help us understand your purpose for giving them. Help us to understand how you intend us to view them. Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Help me Lord to let your word lead the way so we can see your message. Thank you, Jesus, for what you did for me or all of us. We pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

The Kingdom of God is like... what a very, very powerful phrase Jesus uses over and over again in His teachings. How can we possibly miss this? But sadly many do. The kingdom of God is where Jesus is king. Jesus told us the kingdom of God is here. He brought it and made it available to each of us. Jesus said the kingdom of God in your midst. He told us the kingdom of God is the world. He told us the kingdom of God will grow like a seed and fruit. Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth, today. That's what the Jesus said in the Bible. If you need more, join us next time when we look at more of the parables of Jesus about the kingdom of God.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please click like. And Please share the link with a friend to our channel. Send me comments to my email on the screen. So, until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.