

22T09d 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.

I told you last time that there are so many parables of Jesus that start with the phrase the kingdom of God is like... I have broken these into 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 2 of these parables,

- Leaven (Luke 13:20-21, Matthew 13:33-35)
- Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)
- Pearl (Matthew 13:45-46)
- Dragnet (Matthew 13: 47-52)

I'm going to begin with the Leaven parable from Luke 13. Luke 13:20-21 (NKJ) *²⁰And again He said, “To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? ²¹It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.”*

Let's read also from Matthew, Matthew 13:33-35 (NKJV) *³³Another parable He spoke to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.”*

Here in Luke and Matthew is another example of the kingdom of God and kingdom of heaven being used interchangeably. I think most people do not really pay attention to what Jesus is saying here. The kingdom of God is like leaven. That is something very small that can positively affect much. Just like a little leaven, can leaven a large bunch of dough. Same way a little of the kingdom of heaven can bring good to the many people around a single follower of Jesus. When we live our lives as part of the kingdom of God,

God's way is noticed. The lives of the people around us are better, when a Christ follower lives the way Jesus wants us to live.

Next, I want to look at another parable from Matthew 13 about hidden treasure. Let's read from Matthew 13, Matthew 13:44 (NKJV), ⁴⁴*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

Jesus is making another parallel statement that the people could relate to. If you find something you believe is worth a tremendous amount, what would you do to get. If you knew a field near your home had a buried treasure. You had seen it, so you know it's there. Would you sell everything you have to buy the field so you could have the treasure. I think most of us would. The kingdom of God is just like that. The kingdom of God is worth everything you have to possess it.

Next, I want to look at another parable from Matthew 13 about the pearl of great value. Let's read from Matthew 13:45-46 (NKJV) ⁴⁵*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls,* ⁴⁶*who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

This is a nearly identical story to the hidden treasure. I think Jesus is trying to make sure we get His point. The Kingdom of God is worth everything you have. It's worth more than anything. Whatever you have, the kingdom of God is worth more than that.

I heard it put this way recently. What is the kingdom of God worth? Well, everything. It has great value, so you have to give God everything you have to obtain it. But anyone can have it, no matter what they have. I heard this story. Think about what you would pay for eternal life with Jesus. Think of it this way. You want to buy it, the merchant says, what do you have because it is very expensive. You might say, I have about \$10K in my bank account. The merchant says, ok I'll take that but what else do you have? Well, I have about \$20 in my wallet. The merchant says I'll take that too and the wallet. OH, I see a driver's license. With an address Well yes you might say, that's the address of my house. The merchant says, I'll take that too. You protest, do you expect me to sleep in my car. Well no, but you have a car I see, I'll take that too, the merchant says. You gasp, then where will my family live. The merchant smiles, you have a family? You respond, a wife and three kids. I'll take those too, the merchant says. Oh, and by the way, you also. You belong to me now too. All that you have, and your very life belongs to me. You exclaim that's really expensive. The merchant rebuttals, yes but anyone can buy it. It only cost them everything they have. That is the cost of the kingdom of God. But there is some real good news. God is going to let you keep using all that stuff you thought you owned. Your money, your house, your car, your family, even your life. You can continue to use them, steward them. But there is a catch. There is always a catch isn't there. Since you don't own any of those things anymore, you have been prepared to give them to whoever God tells you to give them. Say God says, give this group \$10K, you say yes and do it. God says give your car to that person, you say, yes and just do it. I've been very blessed to give away a couple of cars, I've had God ask my family to write some of those big checks. I'm not special, I've just tried to be obedient to God. And I am so thankful to God for those moments. Now, I don't always not why or what happened after. That is all up to God. Just say yes and be obedient no matter what God asks. God knows better than we do. Trust Jesus.

Last, I want to look at another parable from Matthew 13 about the dragnet. Let's read from Matthew 13:47-52 (NKJV) ⁴⁷*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind,* ⁴⁸*which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into*

vessels, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, ⁵⁰and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” ⁵¹Jesus said to them, “Have you understood all these things? They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” ⁵²Then He said to them, “Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.”

This is another one of those parables we need to pay attention to. Jesus is not joking around here. The kingdom of God is the world and there are good and bad people. Eventually, God will be done being patient and all the little kingdoms of the world will be wiped out. Then only God will be king. Then the good will be kept and the bad threw away. Then God will bring all those good people into His presents forever. Now none of us are good, that's the bad news. But all of us can be “good” if we accept Jesus as Lord and savior and follow Jesus. Then we get to put on the goodness of Jesus and become good in God's sight.

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 may seem small, but a few followers of Jesus can positively impact the whole world. Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth, today. That's what 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.