

## 22T09g 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.**

During the last four sessions we have talked about thirteen parables of Jesus that start with the phrase the kingdom of God is like. After we finished studying these parables it was obvious, we needed to recap and review what we had discovered about how Jesus taught about the kingdom of God. The parables were,

- **Wheat & Tares** (Matthew 13 & Luke 13) field is the world, good and bad
- **The Seed** (Mark 4) grows in the earth and multiplies
- **The Mustard Seed** (Matthew 13 & Luke 13) grows and gives refuge
- **Leaven** (Matthew 13 & Luke 13) small amount impact all
- **Hidden Treasure** (Matthew 13) worth everything
- **Pearl of Great Value** (Matthew 13) worth everything
- **Dragnet** (Matthew 13) field is the world, good and bad
- **Unforgiving Servant** (Matthew 18) Forgiveness and Mercy
- **Labors** (Matthew 20) Fairness and Mercy
- **Marriage Feast** (Matthew 22) All are invited, few come
- **Bridesmaids** (Matthew 25) Preparation in this life
- **Talents** (Matthew 25) Stewardship in this life
- **Plow** (Luke 9) focus on Jesus

Okay here is our list of parables, Be sure there are others but let's focus on these. What did we learn? What is the kingdom of God like?

Let's look at what Jesus said about where, when and what the kingdom of God is.

The **Wheat and Tares Parable** in Matthew 13:20-30, says the “kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed seed in his field”, then Jesus explains in verses 36-43, The field is the world and he is the man who sows the seed. The kingdom of heaven is the world. Good seeds are sons of the kingdom of heaven and the weeds are the sons of the wicked one. All growing and living together in the field or the world. We live in the kingdom of God if we are sons of Gods, this is followers of Jesus. **When?** Well right now. **Where?** Here on earth. **What?** The kingdom of God is where Jesus is king. Jesus is king right now, right here. The kingdom of God is anywhere Jesus’ effective will is done.

The **Seed Parable** in Mark 4:26-29. Kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seed on the ground. Jesus is the man and the seeds are His message the gospel of the kingdom of God which produces abundant full heads of grain. We are the heads of grain. The field is the earth. The kingdom of God is here on earth producing followers of Jesus. **When?** Well right now. **Where?** Here on earth. **What?** The kingdom of God is where Jesus is king. Jesus is king right now, right here. The kingdom of God is anywhere Jesus’ effective will is done.

The **Mustard Seed Parable** in Luke 13:18-19 and Matthew 13:31-32. For those of you that are questioning whether the kingdom of heaven and kingdom of God are the same thing. This parable answers that question. Luke uses kingdom of God; Matthew uses kingdom of heaven. Same story in both places only difference is Matthew uses heaven and Luke uses God. Interchangeable terms. Okay, the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that grows from a tiny seed into to large tree that gives refuge. If the kingdom of God is some future time after the second advent of Christ, then how does that future kingdom grow from a tiny seed into a large tree. There is no growth after the return of Jesus. Jesus must be talking about now and the growth of the Christian church. starting with him and growing into followers from every nation and tongue like it is today. The kingdom of God is **When?** Well right now. **Where?** Here on earth. **What?** The kingdom of God is where Jesus is king. Jesus is king right now, right here. The kingdom of God is anywhere Jesus’ effective will is done.

The **Leaven Parable** in Luke 13:20-21 and Matthew 13:33-35. For those of you that are still questioning whether the kingdom of heaven and kingdom of God are the same thing. I hope this parable will answer that question. Luke uses kingdom of God; Matthew uses kingdom of heaven. Same story in both places only difference is Matthew uses heaven and Luke uses God. Interchangeable terms. Okay, the kingdom of God is like leaven. A small amount of leaven can leaven a large amount of dough. If the kingdom of God is some future time after the second advent of Christ, then how does that future kingdom impact its surroundings like leaven does. Jesus must be talking about how followers of Jesus impact the people around them. Followers of Jesus should make the lives of people around them better. They leaven everyone and everything they contact. The kingdom of God is **When?** Well right now when we can impact those around us. **Where?** Here on earth, it is during our lives. **What?** The kingdom of God is where Jesus is king. Jesus is king right now, right here. The kingdom of God is anywhere Jesus’ effective will is done.

I hope you are seeing the consistent theme is all of these parables. Now let's look at the **Hidden Treasure Parable** in Matthew 13:44. The kingdom of heaven is like a hidden treasure in a field. The kingdom of God is priceless. It is worth everything each of us have. Those that understand this would do what ever it takes to be part of the kingdom of Jesus. The kingdom of God is **When?** Well if you can find it during your life, then it must be right now. **Where?** Again if you can find it during your life, it must be right here on earth. **What?** The kingdom of God is where Jesus is king. Jesus is king right now, right here. The kingdom of God is anywhere Jesus' effective will is done.

The **Pearl of Great Value Parable** in Matthew 13:45-46. The kingdom of heaven is like a pearl of great value. The kingdom of God is priceless. It is worth everything each of us have. Those that understand this would do whatever it takes to be part of the kingdom of Jesus. The kingdom of God is **When?** Well if you can find it during your life, then it must be right now. **Where?** Again if you can find it during your life, it must be right here on earth. **What?** The kingdom of God is where Jesus is king. Jesus is king right now, right here. The kingdom of God is anywhere Jesus' effective will is done.

The **Dragnet Parable** in Matthew 13:47-52. The kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet. I hope we understand what this is. A dragnet is a net your dragnet across the ocean floor to catch fish and crabs and other things. It's not a complicated device. The kingdom of God like a dragnet. There is good and bad things in that dragnet. But at the end of the age the good will be separated from the bad. We are not good but Jesus is saying His followers are the good things in the kingdom of God and those that don't follow him are the bad things in the kingdom of God. But there will be a time when the bad is cast away and only the good will remain. So, the kingdom of God is **When?** It is now when both good and bad are still present but at the end of the age, then God will remove all the bad. **Where?** Again if dragnet is collecting both good and bad, it must be right here on earth. **What?** The kingdom of God is where Jesus is king. Jesus is king right now, right here. The kingdom of God is anywhere Jesus' effective will is done.

The **Unforgiving Servant Parable** in Matthew 18:21-35. The kingdom of heaven is like king who decided to settle his accounts. The king shows mercy and forgives a large debt of a servant, but then that same servant goes and threatens and persecuted another over a small debt. He shows no mercy or forgiveness. But please don't miss the ending. Then king sees the unforgiveness and mercilessness of the servant and punishes the unforgiving servant. So, the kingdom of God is **When?** If we are still able to not forgive others it has to be our lives right now. Jesus showed us mercy and made away for us to be forgiven. But, if we don't show mercy to others, if we don't forgive others from our heart, then we will lose what God has given us freely and we will be punished. **Where?** If we are still forgiving others or not forgiving, it must be our lives right now, right here on earth. **What?** The kingdom of God is where Jesus is king. Jesus is king right now, right here. The kingdom of God is anywhere Jesus' effective will is done.

The **Labors Parable** in Matthew 20:1-16. The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who hires labors to work in his vineyard. This parable people have trouble with. It's unfair. Who decides fair? Who decides right and wrong. The landowner. Everyone was paid what they were promised. So received more for less, others received exactly what they were promised. God's message is He can choose to show mercy anyway he chooses; he is not being unfair by giving equal amounts. He is choosing to show equal mercy. Okay, when, where and what. **When?** If we are still laboring it has to be our lives right now. And when this age is over and Jesus wipes away all the little kingdoms of this world, then we receive our pay or reward for following Jesus. And all followers get the same, never ending life with Jesus. **Where?** If we are still laboring, it must be our lives right now, right here on earth. **What?** The kingdom of God is where Jesus is king. Jesus is king right now, right here. The kingdom of God is anywhere Jesus' effective will is done.

The **Marriage Feast Parable** in Matthew 22:1-14. The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a great wedding feast. But invited guests refuse to come, they even kill some of the king's messengers. The king destroys those evil people. So the king invites anyone and everyone. But even after arriving at the feast, one person is not prepared, he is not dressed for the occasion. We have to be prepared to receive the gift of God. Okay, when, where and what. **When?** Well now. We are all invited now but sadly many refuse the free gift **Where?** The king is inviting people from everywhere, right here on earth. **What?** The kingdom of God is where Jesus is king. Jesus is king right now, right here. The kingdom of God is anywhere Jesus' effective will is done.

The **Bridesmaids Parable** in Matthew 25:1-13. The kingdom of heaven is like ten bridesmaids who went to meet the bridegroom. Notice the kingdom is like the bridesmaids. They had to prepared to meet the bridegroom and those that did not prepare well don't get enter. They think they know Jesus; they think they have prepared but Jesus says I don't know you go away. We can only prepare in this life. **When?** Well right now. **Where?** Here on earth. **What?** The kingdom of God is where Jesus is king. Jesus is king right now, right here. The kingdom of God is anywhere Jesus' effective will is done.

The **Talents Parable** in Matthew 25:14-30. The kingdom is like a ruler who goes on a long journey and gives his servants responsibility before he leaves. Some work hard stewarding what the master has given them, others don't steward at all. They hide their gift and do nothing. In the end the ruler returns and those who did well get more responsibility, those who were lazy and did nothing are punished. **When?** Well right now, we can't really do anything with the gifts God has given us after we die. Only now during our life. **Where?** Here on earth, we are only stewarding what we are given during this life. **What?** The kingdom of God is where Jesus is king. Jesus is king right now, right here. The kingdom of God is anywhere Jesus' effective will is done.

One last parable. The **Plow Parable** in Luke 9:57-62. Jesus is trying to tell us our lives will go toward what we focus on. If you focus on the world and things in the world, then your life is headed toward destruction. If you focus on Jesus and stay focused on

Jesus, then your life will head toward Jesus. It's a simple concept to walk in a straight line you have to focus straight ahead. If you look behind you, you won't walk toward your intended target. You'll miss your target. Jesus does not address the when, where or what questions in this last parable only that we won't find it. We aren't fit for it. If we don't keep our focus on him. That means putting God first in everything, above everyone else. No exceptions.

**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... This is how Jesus begins each of these parables. The When is Now, today, God created everything he never lost control. The kingdom of God is now. From the beginning and forever amen. The where is complicated because we struggle with it. Kingdoms can exist in parallel; you can actually reside in several kingdoms at the same time. But you can only have allegiance to one ultimate authority. This does not mean that the various kingdoms are not in conflict. I guarantee they are in conflict and you are caught in between. You have to choose who to obey and face the punishment for the choices. The kingdom of God is the same, you can obey God which means you may face punishments from the lesser kingdoms of this world. It's okay you follow the King not just any king. The kingdom of God is in our midst, this is what Jesus said. The kingdom of God is here. If you follow king Jesus, then you are living in the kingdom of God, right now. Last, what is the kingdom of God. Well what is a kingdom. A kingdom is where the king's will is done. If the king wants you dead, you are dead. You might disagree with the king; your opinion is dully noted meaning the king does not need you opinion nor does he need to take your feelings into consideration when making a decision. A kingdom is where the effective will of the king is done. That does not mean everything is done exactly according to what the kings says, because there are lots of smaller inferior kingdoms doing things against the king. But be certain, God has the ultimate power. God can take your life. God can take your stuff and loved ones. And there is nothing any of these small kingdoms can do about it. God is the truly the king of kings right now. The kingdom is where Jesus is in control. That is right here, right now. If you are a true follow of Jesus, then you are living in the kingdom of God. It is time we start living like we know it because Jesus is very clear that how we live now will impact our final outcomes, our happily ever after. Don't take this for granted. Listen to all the words Jesus said, not just the few that make us feel better. *Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come , thy will be done. On earth as it is in heaven. We trust that you will provide for our needs today, thank you for forgiving our many sins, and help us to resist the evil and do what is right in your sight Lord. Thy is power and the glory forever Amen.*

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.