

**22T09i Kingdom of God-Matthew**

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.

But what, where, when is the Kingdom of God. Now that is the right question. And I know the Bible has the answer. So, I had planned on doing a fast survey of what Jesus said about the kingdom of God in the gospels. It quickly became clear, there is a lot Jesus says about the kingdom of God, so a fast survey was not going to work. I have already reviewed 13 parables of Jesus, now for other teaching. So, today we will concentrate on the gospel of Matthew.

**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, I hope we all understand that there will be a Kingdom of God, but when? Believe it or not, there is a lot of controversy and fights about this. I have heard statements like. The kingdom of God is the Millennium kingdom spoken about in the end of Revelation. And yes, that is definitely the kingdom of God. But others say the kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven is heaven. Duh. Right. And if God is there, then obviously this is God's kingdom, the kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven. Some say that Jesus came to assure in the kingdom of God but was rejected by the Jews, so the kingdom of God is not yet or on hold.

Are you starting to get confused. I know I was. So what is a kingdom? So let's step back a little bit to get a better view. Did God create everything? Well yes. Is God sovereign over everything? I hope you said yes. God is God, which means He is in control of everything. If He is not in control, then He would not be God. So, another question. Is Jesus King? Well of course. Is He king right now? Well, He has to be, He's God. Jesus is in control of everything. He is king over everything. So, the kingdom of God is wherever Jesus is king. Are you starting to understand this.?

Today let's look at what Jesus said about the kingdom of God in the gospel of Matthew. There are 36 verses in the Gospel of Matthew talking about the kingdom of heaven or kingdom of God. Twelve of these we have already talked about in the parables of Jesus sessions. Twelve of these verses mention the kingdom of heaven but don't give us any information about the what, when and where questions we have been asking That leaves us with twelve (12);

- **Matthew 3:2.**
- **Matthew 4:17**
- **Matthew 6:33**
- **Matthew 7:21**
- **Matthew 10:7**
- **Matthew 11:12**
- **Matthew 12:28**
- **Matthew 16:19**
- **Matthew 19:23 -24**
- **Matthew 21:31**
- **Matthew 21:43**

I want to start by reading three separate verses to you together. Matthew 3:2; Matthew 4:17; Matthew 10:7. Please take the time to read these in context but for today. Let me read them each quickly.

Matthew 3:1-2 (NKJ); *1In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"*

Matthew 4:17(NKJ) *17From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

Matthew 10:5-7 (NKJ) *5These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'*

Did you hear what these verses are was saying. The kingdom of heaven is at hand. John the Baptist preached this. Jesus preached this. And this was what his disciples preached also. So, not just Jesus speaking. So when and where, the here and now when this was said and What? Jesus was making the kingdom of God available to anyone willing to follow Him, King Jesus.

Next Matthew 6:31-34 (NKJ) *31"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.* Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness is added to us. Now, Right here, right now. So don't worry about tomorrow because today has enough trouble of its own. Jesus is teaching us about today, how we live and what our focus should be right now, right here. Our focus should be on King Jesus and there are many benefits we get for living the right way before God.

Matthew 7:21-23 (NKJ) *21"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!* Now this scripture is clearly about our final outcome. We will have to give an account for what we have done. Just because you know Jesus does not automatically mean you get in. Only those who do the will of God. The only time we can do the will of God is right here, right now. Doing the effective will of King Jesus.

Matthew 11:11-12 (NKJ) *11"Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.* I want to concentrate on the last verse. Until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence. Jesus is talking about Himself. The kingdom of heaven is where Jesus is. It's not some future thing. It was right here on earth when Jesus said this.

Matthew 12:25-30 (NKJ) *25But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. 26If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. 28But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder*

his house. <sup>30</sup>He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad. This is not some far off future kingdom. Jesus said “surely the kingdom of God has come upon you” Right there, right then. Right were Jesus was.

Matthew 16:16-20 <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ. I really like this verse but it does not clearly address our questions of where, when and what. I believe Jesus is literally telling His disciples that they will hold the key to heaven. I think this is quite literally the Holy Spirit, but that’s only my opinion.

Matthew 19:23-26 (NKJ) <sup>23</sup>Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>24</sup>And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>25</sup>When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” <sup>26</sup>But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Most people teach and believe this is referring to after death but it does not have to. I believe Jesus is saying that those that trust in earthly riches instead of Jesus won’t be part of the kingdom of God. It does not take money or things to get into the kingdom of God. The only way in is to be completely devoted and surrendered to the king. King Jesus. You have to do this right here, right now. Not some far off future time after you die.

Matthew 21:28-32 (NKJ) <sup>28</sup>“But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. <sup>30</sup>Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said to Him, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him. Jesus is talking about the tax collectors and harlots that were receiving Him. Believing in Him. They quite literally entered the kingdom of God before the Pharisees. Because the Pharisees did not believe in Jesus, but the tax collectors and harlots did. When? Right when Jesus said it. Where? Right there in the presence of Jesus. What? Accepting that Jesus is King.

Matthew 21:42-44 (NKJ) <sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’? <sup>43</sup>“Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. <sup>44</sup>And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.” This scripture is hotly contested but to me, it appears that Jesus is telling the Jewish people that the kingdom of God is going to be offered to all people, all nations, not just the Jews.

**Let us pray. Heavenly Father. Thank you for you. You only are worthy of praise. You alone are king of kings. Help us to recognize you as the king of our lives. Help us to live like we know it. As your followers, we are active parts of your kingdom. The kingdom of God. I pray that we act like it.**

**Every day in every moment. Thank you, Jesus, for what you did for me or all of us. We pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.**

Let me leave you with this. Throughout these scripture Jesus is teaching us things about the kingdom of God. You can only enter the kingdom of God without your arrogance and pride. You cannot enter the kingdom of God if you trust other things like your money or your intelligence, well good luck. Only truly surrendered disciples of Jesus get into the kingdom of God. Love God first and most of all, then love others in the way God loves them, then you are living in the kingdom of God. Jesus already has all authority in heaven and earth. God created everything; He rules everything. Always. He is and has been and will forever be King of kings. No one can take it away from him. He's God. Don't miss it. The kingdom of God is in your midst. Right here, right now. What you need to do is accept the free gift. Or as Jesus said nearly two thousand years ago. *"the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe the good news of the kingdom of God."*

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope you will join me as we study and learn about the Kingdom of God in this series. If you liked the message, please click like. And please share the link with a friend. Send me comments to my email on the screen

Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.