

Jesus is King: Entrance into the Kingdom – Week 4

INTRO

Several of Matthew's biggest themes found in his genealogy of Jesus are continued in the story of Jesus' strange and miraculous birth.

1. **Jesus established a kingdom** – We are to see Jesus through the lens of David
2. **Jesus came to redeem anyone** – notably the Gentiles
3. **Jesus came to break the curse** – of sin and death
4. **Everything happened as God said it would** – constant use of O.T. prophecies

Summed up:

Jesus is KING. If so, what is the heart condition we must have to enter His kingdom?

HOOK

Example: Sometimes, when Nadia is caught hurting Silas, she smiles and gives fake apologies. It's irritating. She won't be allowed back in to play with the others if she is unrepentant. I want her to stop hurting people, to feel the weight of what she's done, to make up for it, and be resolute to not hurt them again in the future.

- How often do we do this with God? How often do we give insincere, half apologies, not stop our behaviors, not reconcile the damage, and do it again?
 - What a rebellious and presumptuous attitude toward God! With that kind of attitude, we will certainly feel the sting of God's discipline.

What is the heart condition we must have to enter His kingdom?

*Our heart must be **repentant**.

BOOK

Matthew 3:1-2 – *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

Matthew 4:17 - *From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

- Jesus has the exact same sermon as John the Baptist.

LOOK

Define “repent” – to feel and express remorse for wrongdoing and make a deliberate redirection for the future. To make a change of mind, heart, and action, by turning away from sin and self and returning to God.

- **2 Chronicles 30:9b** - *For the Lord your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn His face from you if you return to Him.*

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN – (used 32X in the N.T.)

Define “kingdom” - the domain, realm of authority which is ruled by a king.

Define “of heaven” – greater than a singular nation. This King’s domain of rule exceeds a nation or even the earth itself. He is the king of all dominions: Nature, the kingdoms of the earth, the astrological expanses above, the spiritual realm and its demonic forces, and heaven itself with all its hosts.

The gospel writers have gone to lengths to show Jesus’ dominion extends over each of these. **Why?** Because Jesus is THAT King.

Define “at hand” – Not “over there,” “coming soon,” or “someday.” It is here, now, and among us.

The same sermon is preached by John and soon Jesus: The kingdom of heaven is at hand and the cost of admission is a repentant heart.

We’re going to look at the path Jesus took to receive the baton from John the Baptist, come fully into His ministry, and turn toward the cross.

How will the King come onto the scene, pick up the baton of John the Baptist, and begin His ministry of redemption – God’s rescue mission of the human race? **It will be through being anointed as King and victory in His first battle with the enemy.**

STORY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matthew 3:1-3 – *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”*

He was a herald, forerunner. A forerunner went ahead of a king and his entourage to prepare the city for his coming.

- God wasn't interested in the condition of city streets. He was coming to hearts, and they needed to be prepared. Repentance is the condition the heart needed to be in when the King arrived.
- What did he demand of people? Lives should change out of repentance.

Matthew 3:14-17 - *John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased."*

- Descending of the H.S. and Declaration of Identity

Psalm 2:7 - *I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You.*

Isaiah 42:1 - *Behold My servant, whom I uphold, My chosen, in whom My soul delights; I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.*

Compare: The Anointing of David

- Jesus surpasses David
 - David – Anointed with olive oil to be king of a nation. (**1 Sam. 16**)
 - **Jesus** – Anointed with God's Holy Spirit to be King of the universe.
 - David – “a man after God’s own heart.” (**1 Sam. 13:4**)
 - **Jesus** – “God’s beloved Son, with Whom He’s well pleased.”
 - Recognition of FULL authority as King of the Universe
 - **Matthew 28:18** – *ALL authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.*

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Matthew 4:1-3 - *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."*

- “tempter” – only used once in all the gospels! It’s important that Matthew used this term for him. He’s calling us to remember satan, the ancient adversary from **Genesis 3**, the primordial enemy of mankind. This is the same tempter, himself, who led Adam to sin speaking to Jesus, the Son of God.
- This scene is a clash of kingdoms, a face-off between the temporary “ruler of the world” (**John 12**) and the Sovereign of all Creation (**Col. 1**).

Two BIG things are happening here. **First:**

- 1) Jesus is superseding **Adam and Israel** (“son of God”) by living a life of obedience and faithfulness.
 - Jesus denied the “tempter” and **was obedient where Adam failed.** (**Rom.5**)
 - **Deuteronomy 8:2-3** - *And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that He might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 And He humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.*
 - But He will succeed **in faithfulness where Israel failed.**
 - Jesus knew He was living out a replay of Adam and Israel – even quoting what He was doing.
- 2) Jesus is the High Priest who can, in every way, can identify with us. (**Heb.4**)
 - **Here Jesus identifies with us in temptation, but defeats the “tempter” through obedience.**

Challenge – “IF...” - 2x

- If you’re God’s Son....
- If you are the Creator and originator of the natural elements...
- **If you hold all authority...** King...

Matthew 4:8-9 – *Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, “All these I will give You, if You will fall down and worship me.”*

- The tempter didn’t offer Jesus the “riches of this world,” “pleasures of this world,” “fame of this world.” He offered Jesus the kingdoms. **Why?** Because Jesus’ coronation as King will be at the cross and His crown will be of twisted thorns. “If you really want to be king, I can give it to you the easy way” – satan.
- The enemy is asking for Jesus to bow to him, to abdicate His throne, to transfer His authority in bowing to him – with the temptation of earthly rule (which is not even his to give).

- Psalm 2:6-8 - *The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.*

Matthew 4:10-11a - *Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.” Then the devil left him...”*

- He has been anointed into Kingship publicly and defeated the tempter.
- Jesus is now fully set on the path toward the cross.

Matthew 4:17 - *From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

- It is no longer the forerunner, the herald who is declaring the kingdom of heaven is here. Now, the King, Himself, having had his authority recognized, challenged, and retained, declares the kingdom of heaven is HERE.
- But it's conditional. It is for those who come with repentant hearts.

TOOK

REPENTANCE

Repentance is the heart condition we MUST have to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

- How Jesus begins His great sermon on the mount: **Matt.5:2-3** - *And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* (humble, penitent, repentant)

1 John 1:9 - *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

Acts 3:19 - *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.*

What are we turning from? Sin, Idolatry, Blindness, Rebellion, Spiritual death.

What are we turning to? Creator, Sovereign King, the Lover of our souls, Eternal life.

God's wrath is against all unrighteousness, but Jesus didn't come to save us FROM God, but TO God and FOR God.

- **John 3:17** - *God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.*

Analogy of a prisoner about to be executed: (inspired by Spurgeon)

- 15 minutes away from being walked down that corridor:
 - A fashion designer holding a fine and stylish jacket
- 10 minutes away:
 - A real estate giant holding a deed
- 5 minutes away:
 - A billionaire holding a check
- Escorted down the hall toward execution
 - A judge holding a pardon

He holds the ONLY thing of value! How would we beg and plead? Would you throw down pride? **Would you confess and repent of your crime?**

Doesn't Jesus hold the only thing of real value?! Everything else in the world is empty, useless, & unsatisfying for someone who recognizes the severity of their sin.

RECAP

- The “kingdom of heaven” is a comprehensive term showing God’s complete sovereignty over all realms.
- The heart’s condition to enter the kingdom of heaven must be repentance.
- To repent is to turn from sin and self towards Jesus and His authority.
- Jesus’ cosmic Kingship is recognized at His baptism with the anointing of the Holy Spirit and God’s declaration of His Sonship.
- The tempter challenged Jesus to surrender that authority in disobeying God.
- After defeating satan, the King, Himself, now declares that the Kingdom of Heaven is HERE.
- To all those who will repent, God will forgive of their sin, and the kingdom of heaven welcomes you.

Challenge 1: Confess to someone you trust and ask them to pray for you.

James 5:16 - *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*