

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN:
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Sermon Plan

1. Introduction: The Coming Kingdom
2. The Story of the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 1: Creation
3. The Story of the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 2: The Fall
4. The Story of the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 3: Israel
5. The Story of the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 4: Jesus I
6. The Story of the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 4: Jesus II
7. The Story of the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 5: Church
8. Entering the Kingdom of Heaven
9. Life in the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 1: The Benefits of the Kingdom
10. Life in the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 2: The Core Values of the Kingdom
- 11. Life in the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 3: The Work of the Kingdom**
12. Life in the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 4: The Warfare of the Kingdom
13. Conclusion: The Story of the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 6: New Creation

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM, PART 3:
THE WORK OF THE KINGDOM
(EPHESIANS 4:11-13)

- I. The Dignity Of Work
- II. Ephesians 4:11-13: The Work Of The Kingdom And Its Purpose
 - A. The gifts that Jesus gives to his people (4:11)
 1. The apostles
 2. The prophets
 3. The evangelists
 4. The pastors (or shepherds) and teachers
 - B. The reason for these gifts is to help us in our work of ministry (4:12)
 1. What is “the work of ministry”?
 - “ministry” = *diakonia* = “service”
 2. The immediate goal of ministry: “for building up the body of Christ.”
 - C. The purpose for our work of ministry (4:13)
 1. To attain the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God

2. To mature manhood
 3. To the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ
- III. Our Work(s) Of Ministry
- A. At its heart, ministry is *always* about giving the word of God to others.
 - B. The forms ministry might take:
 1. Singing God's word to one another (Eph 5:19)
 2. Studying God's word with one another (cf. Dt 6:6-7)
 3. Living out/exemplifying God's word before one another (Eph 4:17-24)
 - a. in holy behavior (Eph 4:19-20)
 - b. in acts of mercy and compassion

Start your lifetime of ministry by asking yourself:

"Where in this community of Jesus is the word of God most needed?"

"Where in this community of Jesus and to whom in this community of Jesus can I bring the word of God?"

Questions for Further Discussion

1. What is the role of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teachers?
2. Based on Ephesians 4:11-13, what is the work of the kingdom? Who can be considered a minister?
3. What does "ministry" mean?
4. Based on Ephesians 4:11-13, what are the goals of all-believer ministry?
5. "Since all believers are called to give the word of God to others, all believers should be allowed to preach." Discuss. (see Col 3:16; 2 Tim 2:2)
6. "Since all believers are called to minister, a church has no need for pastors." Discuss.
7. Where in the church can your service be used? How can you prepare for that service?