

The Gospel of the Kingdom
Summary of the Book of Matthew
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Introduction

- 3/12 years since we started Matthew (w/6 month break in 2018 for core values series)
- a lot of teaching, much forgetting
- I would like to go back and highlight what is definitely a specific major theme in Matthew - the Kingdom of God (in light of the resurrection)
- this is explicit in almost 60 verses, but would like to highlight 7 motifs
- my method will be to give you the theme and refer to specific Scriptures, but will be doing so without taking you there (too many) or without giving you the address (I'd be glad to send my notes with references)
- I would like the Word and this message to wash over you as you listen

1. The King of the Kingdom

- The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the final evidence (at this point) of His authority (with a final evidence at His coming)
- This authority extends to both heaven and earth
- In heaven - all beings, saints, angels, demons
- In earth - all the physical creation, all tribes, all peoples, all nations
- This announcement both looks forward (therefore, go) and backward to the beginning through the book of Matthew
- Jesus Himself paid the cost of the Kingdom, sent by the Father's love, God's coming in the person of Jesus to die as an atoning sacrifice for sin
- This we appropriate by faith alone, trusting in Him as our only hope and foundation
- What does it mean to trust in Christ alone? It means to believe who He is, what He has done, and what He has taught

2. The Priority of the Kingdom

- 6:33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else
- 13:44-45 treasure and pearl
- 19:23 Money and riches (i.e. power) make entry into the Kingdom difficult (but not impossible with God)
- Valued so high as to be willing to suffer and be persecuted (Beatitudes)

3. The Laws of the Kingdom

- 28:20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you
- 5:19 Has its set of laws to be obeyed (with particular attention to the Sermon on the Mount) which promotes human flourishing and the glory of God
- 5:20 a righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees
- 7:21 Has false citizens who call Jesus Lord who are exposed by their lawlessness
- 23:23 but you ignore the more important (weightier) aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith.

4. The Entering of the Kingdom

- 18:1ff The greatest in the Kingdom are like little children; turn from your sins and become like little children; anyone who becomes as humble as this little child
- 21:31 corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do.

5. The Citizens of the Kingdom (hearts and behaviors)

- Beatitudes
 - [Left bookend] 5:3 those who are poor and realize their need for him
 - [Right bookend] 5:10 who are persecuted for doing right
- Forgiveness
 - 18:23ff Is like a king settling accounts with servants; those who forgive will be forgiven, those who don't won't
- Can't Stand if Divided
 - 12:25 Any kingdom divided by civil war (divided against itself) is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart.
- Taken away if fruit not born
 - 21:43 It is taken away from those who have knowledge without fruit to be given to those who will bear fruit

6. The Growth of the Kingdom

- Planting (past)
 - 25:34 inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.
 - 12:28 Jesus' work by the Spirit of God shows that the Kingdom has arrived (inaugurated/in part)
 - This, connected to Pentecost
- Growing (present)
 - 13:31 The kingdom is like a mustard seed; small, with slow, steady growth over time
 - 6:10 Is to be prayed for to come on earth as it is in heaven; to be coming and to come
- Harvesting (future)
 - 13:41 When the Kingdom fully comes, the world will be cleared of all that causes sin and lawbreaking
 - 13:43 When the Kingdom fully comes the righteous will be the light of the word
 - 26:29 Entrance into the Kingdom will be a celebratory feast

7. The Broadcasting of the Kingdom

- 3:2 John; 4:17 Jesus 4:23 9:35 (NLT "announcing the Good News about the Kingdom")
- 10:7 To be announced by the apostles (to the Jews)
- 8:11 Its citizens are made up of Jews and Gentiles, (assuming we will be announcing it to them)
- 13:47 The message of the Kingdom is to be thrown out like a net thrown out to gather (fishers of men)
- 24:14 The good news of the Kingdom will be proclaimed through the whole world (and thus should be proclaimed)

- 28:19 To make disciples of Jesus of all the nations in its fullness is to bring them into the Kingdom
- Response to this announcement - 13:24 The news of the Kingdom is like sowing seed

Application

- We, as a local church (or any other), are not the Kingdom of God
- We are an outpost of that Kingdom
- Our call is to live these things out in our lives personally as we live in community relationships at church and in the world
- the Gospel is larger than “personalized” Gospel that merely provides a way of personal forgiveness
- to be saved is to be brought into a relationship with a King and a Kingdom, not invisible, but lived out in our lives together
- They are lives lived under the law of Christ, with special attention to the weightier matters
- This is to be our most important priority, willing to suffer for it and the Name of Jesus Christ
- Evangelism is fundamentally an announcement of the Kingdom, and too is our prime directive
- the kingdoms of this world are passing away, and our ultimate goal is not to fix them but to live within them as a subversive counterculture of love in a new humanity