

His Kingdom Called Paradise —His Kingdom at Hand

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I. Our King has a kingdom called paradise—Which is in heaven—Right now

[Luk 23:42](#) ...he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

[Luk 23:43](#) And Jesus said unto him...To day shalt thou be with me in **paradise**.

[2Co 12:2](#) I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)...

[2Co 12:4](#) How that he was caught up into **paradise**, and heard unspeakable words...

II. Our King has a kingdom at hand—Which is right here in this world—Right now

[Mat 4:17](#) ...Jesus began to preach...Repent: for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand**.

—By Jesus' own words, He defined '*at hand*' to mean '*at this time*' and '*in this place*'

[Mat 26:45](#) Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them...behold, the hour is **at hand**, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

[Mat 26:46](#) Rise, let us be going: behold, he is **at hand** that doth betray me.

III. Repent...*The kingdom of heaven is at hand*—It's the message of the New Testament

[Mat 3:1](#) In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

[Mat 3:2](#) And saying, Repent ye: for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand**.

[Mat 4:17](#) ...Jesus began to preach...Repent: for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand**.

[Mat 10:5](#) These twelve Jesus sent forth...

[Mat 10:7](#) And as ye go, preach, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is at hand**.

[Luk 10:1](#) After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also...

[Luk 10:9](#) ...and say unto them, **The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you**.

Act 1:3 ...being seen of them forty days, and **speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:**

Act 28:31 **Preaching the kingdom of God**, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ...

IV. Things about the kingdom of heaven that is at hand

A. Living in the kingdom of heaven that is at hand is a great way to live life

Mat 11:11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

B. The kingdom of heaven is something spiritual on the inside

Luk 17:20 ...The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:

Luk 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

C. The kingdom of heaven is something beyond religious ritual

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

D. Everything about the idea of a kingdom of heaven on earth is paradoxical

Mat 5:3 Blessed (happy) *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 5:10 Blessed (happy) *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

E. The kingdom of heaven is not like this world's kingdoms—Or this world's thinking

Joh 18:36 ...My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight...

F. The kingdom is for those who repent—Change their thinking—And their doing

Mat 21:28 But what think ye? A *certain* man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.

Mat 21:29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

Mat 21:30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I *go*, sir: and went not.

Mat 21:31 Whether of them twain did the will of *his* father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

G. The kingdom of heaven that is at hand is worth more than anything in this world

Mat 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Mat 13:45 ...the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

Mat 13:46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

V. Requirements for living in the kingdom of heaven at hand

A. 'Born again' is the first requirement for living in the kingdom

Joh 3:3 ...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

B. The kingdom is for those who strive for righteousness

Mat 5:20 ...except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

C. The kingdom is for the meek and humble

Mat 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the **kingdom** of heaven.

Mat 18:4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the **kingdom** of heaven.

D. The kingdom is for those who put the kingdom first—Want it more than anything

Mat 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

E. The kingdom is for those who are not in love with money

Mat 19:23 ...a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

F. The kingdom is for those who are not in love with the world

Mat 22:2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

Mat 22:3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come...

Mat 22:5 But they made light of *it*, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise...

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few *are* chosen.

G. The kingdom is for those who are willing to suffer for it

Mat 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

Luk 16:16 The law and the prophets *were* until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

Act 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

VI. DON'T MISS IT—The real truth of a real kingdom of heaven—For here and now

A. The word of the kingdom is sown—But few ever really experience it

Mat 13:18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

Mat 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth *it* not, then cometh the wicked *one*, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

Mat 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

Mat 13:21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

Mat 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

Mat 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

B. Yet the kingdom will continue through time and place—And some will rest in it

Mat 13:31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

Mat 13:32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

C. The kingdom of heaven at hand is the real truth in a deceived world

Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Joh 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

Joh 18:38 Pilate saith unto him, **What is truth?** ...

D. The sad truth is that Satan is a great deceiver—Offering the kingdoms of the world

Mat 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

Mat 4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

E. The sad truth is that religious liars and hypocrites rob many of the kingdom

Mat 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

F. The sad truth is that we ourselves tend to become weary and give up on the kingdom

Luk 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

VII. To live in the kingdom here is the best life for now—Even while eternal life awaits

Luk 18:28 Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee.

Luk 18:29 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake,

Luk 18:30 Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.