

“A Sample or Substance of the Kingdom?” (Matthew 4:23–25)
GCC, Morning Worship, 3/20/22

Intro—Jesus had 15 minutes of fame (v. 24). What did they come out to see?

- I. In Jesus’ *preaching* and *healing* ministries, we see two important categories:
 - A. In his preaching we hear of the *substance* of the Kingdom
 1. The *substance* of the Kingdom is the full package, i.e., all things new (Rom 8:21)
 - B. In his healing ministry we see a *sample* of the kingdom
 1. Why did Jesus do these miracles? What was the purpose of them?
 - a. To authenticate his claim that He was from God (Luke 11:20)
 - b. To show that he has authority to overcome the evil one and take back the deed of the earth (Mark 3:27)
 - c. To give a sampling of the kingdom of God (Luke 11:20)
 2. The signs were a sample, not the substance
 - a. We must prioritize the *substance* over the *sample* (Luke 10:18–20)
- II. Does the *Sample* or the *Substance* Define and Prioritize Contentment?
 - A. Some people come to Jesus wanting to find contentment, they don’t find it, are disappointed, and walk away from Jesus
 1. Two versions of this:
 - aa. Apostates (Heb 6:1–8)
 - bb. The Self-deceived (Matthew 7:22–24)
 - B. *True believers* come to Jesus in desperation looking for contentment. They may not even totally understand what they are looking for.
 1. When we come to Jesus with our ‘nothing,’ he redefines contentment for us and then gives it to us.
 2. Don’t settle for the samples of the eschaton. Set your hope on the substance of the eschaton

Questions for Application and Discussion

1. What are the two things in Jesus’ ministry that people ‘went out to see?’
2. Which one of these was a *sample* of the kingdom? How so?
3. Which one of these was the *substance* of the kingdom? How so?
4. How does the *substance* of the kingdom define and prioritize our contentment?
5. What happens when the *samples* of the kingdom define and prioritize our contentment?
6. Why do apostates and ‘so-called’ Christians *not* find contentment in Jesus?
7. What are some ways that even genuine believers can fall into defining and prioritizing contentment according to the *samples* of the kingdom rather than the *substance* of the kingdom?