

Hidden Kingdom Part 1 - "The Master" (1-24-21)

Introduction: Lost Luggage in Ukraine

1) The Hidden Kingdom

Matthew 4:17 (ESV)

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Dallas Willard (The Divine Conspiracy) - describes Jesus message this way:

"The rule of God is now accessible to everyone. Review your plans for living and base your life on this remarkable new opportunity"

Matthew 4:23-25 (ESV)

(23) And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. (24) So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. (25) And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Note: Jesus very life (words & actions) - communicated the availability of the Kingdom of God

Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7)

Matthew 5:1-2 (ESV)

(1) Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. (2) And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Matthew 7:13-14 (ESV)

(13) "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. (14) For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Note: While this kingdom was available - few would find the way!

Matthew 13:34-35 (ESV)

(34) All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. (35) This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world."

Note: Something long hidden is available, but it is still cloaked.

Paul's prayer for the church . . .

Colossians 2:2-3 (ESV)

(2) that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, (3) in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

The question before the people of Jesus day is the same for us: Will we pursue the Kingdom of the Master?

2) The Master

a) **Teacher** (G1320 - used 43 times in gospels about Jesus): Instructor, teacher, doctor

Pharisees & Sadducees test Jesus (Matthew 22:15-46)

Matthew 22:15-17 (ESV)

(15) Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. (16) And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. (17) Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

Jesus aware of the trap and their intentions - answers their question brilliantly!

Matthew 22:22 (ESV)

When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

Matthew 22:33-34 (ESV)

(33) And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching. (34) But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.

Matthew 22:41, 46 (ESV)

(41) Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question . . . (46) And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

b) **Commander** (G1988 - used 17 times only in Luke of Jesus): Commander, Overseer, King

Luke 8:24 (ESV)

And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm.

Luke 17:12-14 (ESV)

(12) And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance (13) and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." (14) When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed.

c) **Rabbi** (special Jewish term for teacher/mentor) - its a term of respect and devotion

- **Rab - master**
- **Rabbi - my master** (used 17 times of Jesus)

Matthew 23:6-8 (NKJV)

(6) They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, (7) greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' (8) But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren.

- **Rabboni - my great master** (used only twice) - special designation for the very elite

John 20:16 (NKJV)

Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!"

3) Apprenticeship

Matthew 4:17-20 (ESV)

(17) From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (18) While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. (19) And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (20) Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Note: Have you dropped everything to follow him?

Matthew 13:10-11, 15-16 (ESV)

(10) Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" (11) And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given . . . (15) For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.' (16) But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

Note: Do you see? Do you hear?

What does it take to be an apprentice?

A brilliant & willing Master, and a committed and curious follower!

Conclusion

God's Kingdom is readily available, but it is not obvious. We have access to the Master; so, will I commit my life to following Him, that He might become My Great Master?

When I commit to follow Him, I find that Narrow Way that leads to life . . .

Colossians 3:1-4 (ESV)

(1) If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (3) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.