

WHICH KINGDOM WILL YOU CHOOSE?

Pastor Chad Gilligan | September 11, 2022

Matthew 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Matthew 3:1-2 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

I. WHICH KINGDOM WILL YOU CHOOSE?

A. The Seen or Unseen Kingdom?

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

- **How you approach something is determined by how you see something.**

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Hebrews 11:1 (NLT) Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

B. The Kingdom of Light or Darkness?

Matthew 4:16 the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

- **The kingdom you can see is not the kingdom of light.**

Isaiah 9:2-3 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;

- **Light brings joy.**
- **Light brings clarity.**
- **Light brings a fresh start**

Lamentations 3:22-23 Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

C. The Kingdom of Hope or Despair?

Matthew 4:12-16 When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— ¹⁴ to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶ the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

- **Jesus offers hope even in the midst of despair.**

Romans 8:24-25 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

D. The Kingdom of Healing or Brokenness?

Matthew 4:23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

Teaching = Scripture
Proclaiming = Good News
Healing = Power

Matthew 4:24 News about Him spread all over Syria, and people brought to Him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and He healed them.

E. The Kingdom of God or Self?

Matthew 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

- **Which King will you serve?**
- **God does things differently in His Kingdom.**

II. COMMUNION

1 Corinthians 11:27-29 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11:25-26 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.