

The God Story

The Kingdom of God



Icebreaker

- ▶ We live in the UK i.e. a Kingdom
- ▶ There may be certain times, events that you feel were especially British. Or customs and practices which are so uniquely British.
- ▶ **Are there times where you have felt especially aware of being a part of this Kingdom, being a citizen of the United Kingdom?**

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- Presence of the Queen/King
- Participation

Kingdom of God- Historic Context

- ▶ Israel under Samuel's leadership had rejected the Lordship of Yahweh.
- ▶ They wanted a human king like the other nations.
- ▶ God had agonizingly granted their request, but it was never Plan A....
- ▶ Jesus announcing the re-establishing of God's reign on the earth; Plan A was being reinstated.
- ▶ Jesus called this new reality 'the kingdom of God'. "Defined simply,
- ▶ ***the kingdom of God is the place where God is acknowledged as King; where God's will and God's ways are realized. Or another way to put it is, the kingdom of God will always look like King Jesus.***"

The Kingdom Family

- ▶ Jesus wanted to reproduce on earth what is in Heaven.
 - ▶ To see Jesus and become like him. Being a disciple.
 - ▶ To model what Kingdom Family looked like on earth
- ▶ If you think Kings Church has some interesting characters, look at the disciples!

How did Jesus reveal the Kingdom of God on earth?

- He announced it (preached)
- He described it (taught)
- He demonstrated it (lived)


The Kingdom Announced

- *After this, Jesus travelled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the **good news** of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, (Luke 8:1)*


Key quote

- **“Everything humanity was powerless to conquer, Jesus had come to defeat; and everything humanity was truly longing for, Jesus had come to complete.”**
- **‘*Repent*, for the kingdom of God has come **near**.’** (Matt 4:17. Mark 1:15)
- **“Only an act of ‘giving yourself up’ and turning your whole life around (metanoia) would position you to receive this kingdom.”**
- **Ongoing submission, part of the Lords prayer**

The Kingdom Described – in Parables

 **1. Growth + Hidden Power** → The Kingdom starts small and works quietly. **Mustard Seed, Yeast (Leaven), Growing Seed**

 **2. Response** → People decide whether they are part of.
The Sower

 **3. Mixed Reality** → Good and evil exist together for now.
The Weeds (Tares), The Net

 **4. Judgment** → God will separate them in the End **The Weeds (Tares)**

 **5. Great Value** → It's worth everything you have. **Hidden Treasure, Pearl of Great Price**

The Kingdom Described

- ▶ *Jesus articulated the culture of the kingdom of God, a vision for a new society*
- ▶ *Beattitudes: The poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who are persecuted because of righteousness,*
- ▶ **Key quote**
“The Beatitudes are not to be understood as a list of entry requirements, addressed to a bunch of isolated individuals. Rather they are revolutionary hope filled words declaring the ‘good news’ that those who have formerly felt ‘outside’ of the kingdom of God are actually the ones best positioned to receive it.”

The Kingdom Described – The Sermon on the Mount

- ▶ You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.
- ▶ Murder: But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.
- ▶ Adultery. But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
- ▶ If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.
- ▶ Love your neighbour^[1] and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

The Kingdom Described – The Sermon on the Mount

- Giving, Prayer, Fasting. Don't do try and gain public favour, rather do in private with your Father
- Prayer – Father mentioned 6 times in 10 verses!
- But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven..... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life
- how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!
- everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

The Kingdom Described – its all about love

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Matt 34

Key quote

Love God. Love your neighbour. It is impossible to overstate how revolutionary this moment was for those listening. Jesus left no room for any more speculative theology – the goal of Torah and the central moral category of his kingdom was **sacrificial love**. Vertical love (love for God) is inseparable from horizontal love (love for one's fellow human being). The kingdom of God is against everything that hinders love."

The Kingdom Demonstrated

- Everything Jesus said, **he lived.**

Key quote

- **“All of Jesus’ supernatural demonstrations of the kingdom were an expression of his Father’s heart. Jesus had confirmed to his curious disciples that when they had seen him, they had seen the Father. No wonder, every miracle was motivated by mercy.**
- Four ways Jesus demonstrated the Kingdom
 - healing, deliverance, forgiveness and celebration.

The Kingdom Demonstrated

► **Healing**, e.g. Jesus heals the leper

“Every miraculous ‘sign’ of healing was a ‘signpost’ towards a vision of God’s reign where sickness is conquered and death is defeated.”

► **deliverance**, the demon possessed man in the Gadarenes.

“Dark, oppressive spirits causing agonising torment in the minds of the ones Jesus loved were driven out by the liberating light of his words, releasing them into glorious freedom and perfect peace.”

The Kingdom Demonstrated

➤ **Forgiveness** – the woman caught in adultery

“The kingdom of God was a condemnation-free zone. Weary souls, weighed down by a lifetime of guilt, offence and relational pain, were released into the intoxicating freedom of God’s forgiveness.”

➤ **Celebration** – dining at Matthews with tax collectors

“Jesus’ demonstration of the kingdom also came in his joyful reception of every individual he encountered. Those labelled worthless by the world were seen and celebrated. Jesus sat at their tables to help them know they had a place at his. he was unashamed to confirm heaven rejoices over those who have been passed by.