

# The Kingdom of God

## I. Jesus' Presentation

Matthew 4:23-25 (NIV®)

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, **preaching the good news of the kingdom**, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

John 18:36 (NASB®)

Jesus answered, "**My kingdom is not of this world.** If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, **My kingdom is not of this realm.**"

Acts 20:25 (NIV®) (Paul in Ephesus)

"Now I know that none of you among whom **I have gone about preaching the kingdom** will ever see me again.

Acts 28:31 (NIV®) (Paul in Rome)

Boldly and without hindrance **he preached the kingdom of God** and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

## II. Glimpses of Authority — Kingdom Perspectives

Luke 4:36 (NIV®)

All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What is this teaching? With authority and power **he gives orders to evil spirits** and they come out!"

Mark 4:41 (NIV®)

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? **Even the wind and the waves obey him!**"

Matthew 14:25-27 (NIV®)

<sup>25</sup> During the fourth watch of the night **Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.** <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

Luke 5:18-26 (NIV®)

<sup>18</sup> Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. <sup>19</sup> When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> **When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."** <sup>21</sup> The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? <sup>24</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>25</sup> Immediately he stood up in front of



them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. <sup>26</sup> Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

Matthew 9:18-34 (NIV®)

<sup>18</sup> While he was saying this, a ruler came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." <sup>19</sup> Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

<sup>20</sup> Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. <sup>21</sup> She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." <sup>22</sup> Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment.

<sup>23</sup> When Jesus entered the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, <sup>24</sup> he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup> After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. <sup>26</sup> News of this spread through all that region.

<sup>27</sup> As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" <sup>28</sup> When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. <sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you"; <sup>30</sup> and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." <sup>31</sup> But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

<sup>32</sup> While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. <sup>33</sup> And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel." <sup>34</sup> But the Pharisees said, "It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons."

### III. Your Jesus Decision

Matthew 10:32-39 (NIV®)

<sup>32</sup> "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. <sup>34</sup> **"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.** <sup>35</sup> For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law-- <sup>36</sup> a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' <sup>37</sup> "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup> and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

#### A. Jesus' Admonition

John 16:1 (NASB®)

"These things I have spoken to you **so that you may be kept from stumbling.**

Matthew 11:2-6 (NASB®)

<sup>2</sup> Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent *word* by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> *the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk,*



*the* lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised up, and *the* POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. <sup>6</sup> **"And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."**

## B. Different & Offensive

Matthew 13:54-58 (NASB®)

<sup>54</sup> He came to His hometown and *began* teaching them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where *did* this man *get* this wisdom and *these* miraculous powers? <sup>55</sup> "Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? <sup>56</sup> "And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then *did* this man *get* all these things?" <sup>57</sup> **And they took offense at Him.** But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his *own* household." <sup>58</sup> And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

## C. The End of the Age, Many Will Stumble

Matthew 24:9-10 (NASB®)

<sup>9</sup> "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. <sup>10</sup> "At that time **many will fall away (stumble)** and will betray one another and hate one another.

## D. Refusal to Learn/Change

Matthew 15:8-12 (NASB®)

<sup>8</sup> 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. <sup>9</sup> 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'" <sup>10</sup> After Jesus called the crowd to Him, He said to them, "Hear and understand. <sup>11</sup> "*It is* not what enters into the mouth *that* defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man." <sup>12</sup> Then the disciples *\*came* and *\*said* to Him, "**Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?**"