

# KINGDOM COME

## Belonging in the Kingdom

Matthew 4-7

The kingdom of God makes two demands of us:

1. Be \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

### RIGHTEOUSNESS

*“For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the **kingdom of heaven**.”*

Matthew 5:20

What the kingdom \_\_\_\_\_, the King graciously \_\_\_\_\_.

### REPENTANCE

*“From that time on Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent, for the **kingdom of heaven** has come near.’”*

Matthew 4:17

Repentance means to turn around, wave the \_\_\_\_\_, to surrender to God’s rule in our life.

### The Kingdom of God in a Nutshell (or, should we say, in a mustard seed?)

The kingdom of God isn’t just a key biblical theme; it’s our identity. A theme is interesting, but identity is life-giving. So, what exactly is this kingdom of God?

In essence, *God’s kingdom is his rule and reign*, his sovereignty in action. God reigns primarily in the hearts and lives of those who follow him, so his realm extends wherever we carry his rule and reign. God’s desire is that his rule is ever-expanding in our hearts and lives, and ever-expanding in the world around us as we carry out his kingdom priorities in the world. *If God is King at all, he is King of all*, so this impacts every facet of our life and being.

Entering the kingdom is a gift of grace. Experiencing the kingdom is a responsibility now and a blessing forever.

So, is God’s kingdom a future hope or a present-day reality? Is it out there somewhere or is it right here today? The best answer is... Yes. Both. When Jesus came, he initiated God’s kingdom reign by *conquering Satan, sin and death*. And yet, we still deal with Satan’s influence in our broken world, the harmful effects of sin, and the pain of physical death. King Jesus has conquered his enemies but his ultimate victory will come when he returns in power and glory to make all things new. At that time, his kingdom reign will be complete. In a word, God’s kingdom is *already here but not-yet complete; already initiated but not-yet consummated*.

When Jesus returns to reign, *“the kingdom of the world [will] become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ”* (Revelation 11:15) as heaven and earth become one. In the meantime, we are God’s ambassadors to carry the good news of his kingdom into the hurting, broken and lost around us.

# KINGDOM COME: Belonging in the Kingdom

Matthew 4-7

Questions based on sermon from September 29, 2024

## Getting to Know Me

1. What baptism testimony stood out to you or encouraged you the most on Sunday?
2. These days can remind us of our own baptism. If you have been baptized, when and where was it?

## Digging Deeper

3. Look back at your sermon notes and “The Kingdom of God in a Nutshell.” What is new or challenging here for you?
4. Read Matthew 5:20. What is your initial reaction when you read this verse, and what do you understand this verse to mean?
5. As you hear of the *righteousness* required to enter God’s kingdom rule and reign, keep in mind that “what the kingdom of God demands, the King graciously gives us.” How does this truth help us avoid the trap of trying to earn entry into God’s favor?
6. Read Matthew 4:17. What does it mean to repent? And why do we need to *repent* to enter the Kingdom of God?
7. If God’s kingdom is present wherever he rules and reigns, how does repentance let God’s rule expand in our lives? Read I John 1:9 and Acts 3:19. What does God do when we repent?

8. What do these verses say about how we receive the righteousness required to enter the Kingdom of God?

Ephesians 2:8-10 –

Colossians 1:13-14 –

Galatians 3:11 –

## Making it Personal

9. Sunday’s message focused on repentance for salvation, but how does ongoing repentance allow God to rule and reign even more in your life each day?
10. The kingdom means “God’s rule and reign,” so it exists wherever he is in control. How does this encourage us to repent and allow Him to lead more areas of our lives?
11. What are you starting to understand about the kingdom of God, and what questions do you still have?  
*(Guides, please note these observations or questions and share with Pastor Phil if appropriate so he can seek to address them in this series.)*

## Prayer

Pair up and share how you plan to live out the Kingdom of God this week. Then pray for each other. Stay connected during the week to encourage one another in this commitment!

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1. Be Righteous
2. Repent

### RIGHTEOUSNESS

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Matthew 5:20

What the kingdom demands, the King graciously gives.

### REPENTANCE

*“From that time on Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent, for the **kingdom of heaven** has come near.’”*

Matthew 4:17

Repentance means to turn around, to wave the white flag, to surrender to God’s rule in our life.

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