

One evening a young mother was putting her 2 1/2-year-old daughter to bed, as they talked the little girl pointed out the window at the bright full moon in the sky. They admired the moon for a minute the mother asked, “Who made the moon?”

*“God did,” came the little girls reply.
“And the stars?” she asked. Again, the little girls answer was, “God did.”*

Mom continued with a few more questions: Who made the trees, the flowers, etc., and received the same answer.

Finally, she asked, “Who made Daddy?”

The little girl shouted “Grandma.”

It’s important to have a clear understanding who the King of the kingdom is and remind yourself and others every day. We need, always, to take every opportunity to share what God has done.

Pray

Why does Matthew use the phrase “*kingdom of heaven*” or “*kingdom of God*” over 50 time in his gospel?

1. God breathed His spirit into all mankind. Every cell in your body bears the imprint of God. So, regardless of who you are or what you’ve done you are connected to the kingdom of God. That doesn’t mean you will live in it but it means that the King of the Kingdom has the right to pass judgment on His property.
2. We chase after the things of the world thinking that they are important. We’re tricked into thinking that this life is the end and you better get all you can now. Have money in the bank, get the right house, have the right toys and enjoy them as

long as you can. The lie even goes so far as making you ignore that death will come on all of us. So, Matthew emphasizes the other kingdom – the only important kingdom.

3. The chasing after these things causes us to “worry” and Satan laughs at you as he manipulates you. Jesus tells the crowd that there is a kingdom where you don’t have to worry, and all your needs will be provided. This is the kingdom the people were looking for and they knew was predicted in scripture.
4. The Jewish people hated the Romans and they were looking desperately for the Kingdom predicted in Danial. They expected the Messiah to bring in the kingdom of God.
5. So, lastly when you mentioned the kingdom of God it caused people to listen. Listening is necessary to hearing and understanding the Gospel (good news) of that kingdom.

So, what does Jesus say about the kingdom?

- It’s God’s kingdom and it includes even what Satan thinks he is ruler over.
 - **Matthew 4** – Jesus is confronted by the so-called king of the other kingdom. Satan is challenging and offering Jesus things.
 - Jesus hadn’t eaten so Satan told him to make bread out of stones.

- 4:4 *“Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”* Your life is sustained by the Words of God.
 - Satan challenged him to jump from the highest point of the temple because God would protect him.
 - 4:7 *“Do not put the Lord God to the test.”*
 - Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the earth if he would worship him.
 - 4:10 *“Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.”*
 - What’s interesting about this is Jesus is reminding Satan who is the king of Every kingdom.
 - Remember there is a God stamp on every cell in you body as to who own you.
- When is this kingdom going to come?
 - When Jesus began to preach, he had a very specific message. *“Repent for the kingdom of God has come near.”*
 - It’s already here, it’s been here and Jesus is the Lord of the kingdom.
- Where is the kingdom of God?

- God’s kingdom is wherever His will is being done. So, if you are doing the will of the King then his kingdom is actively where you are at any moment. When you are not doing the will of the King you are then acting on behalf of the other king.
- What is the purpose of the activities of the kingdom? I.e., the will of God the King being done by his servants?
 - It’s to aid God in reclaiming as many eternal souls (people) as he can who will voluntary do His will and enter the awesome Kingdom of the awesome King. The one whose image you bear in every cell of your body.

Knowing these things about the Kingdom of God you would think that people would be rushing to enter this kingdom.

Unfortunately, that not the case.

- Jesus states in Matthew 7:13-14

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

The problem is that we want to believe the lie of the other king and believe that I can be in control of my life.

Friends, Jesus himself who had control of his life turned it over to God the king and did his will. Shouldn’t it be even more so for us who don’t have control of our lives.

- Wouldn't it be better to do the will of the one whose image is stamped on every cell of your body?
- The one who knows you, who loves you so much that he would come to earth in the form of a man to die in your place and take the judgment for your sin on himself?
- The one who made everything that exists and has from the beginning of time been gently calling His children back to himself?

This should have an impact on us.

It should affect how we think and what we do, and if we are truly a child of God's then forgiveness and an effort to restore relationships should be at the top of our list because it's at the top of God's list.

You are part of the kingdom if you are doing the fathers will.

- So what kingdom is important to you?
- And are you willing to make the effort to seek out the narrow gate and path?
- Are you willing to do the Kings will even if it means making an effort to do things that you don't want to do but you know God would want you to do?

We all have to decide this – do I truly want to be part of the kingdom of the King whose name and image I bear in every part of my body and soul?

It's a question we all have to ask as we examine the activities and attitudes of our lives.

As Matthews gospel goes on Jesus now begins to tell us what the kingdom is like. Whetting your appetite for the awesome kingdom of the awesome God.

Walk that narrow path, seek and find, knock on the narrow door and it will open for you. Enter the kingdom of God by the payment of the life of Jesus Christ.

Amen!