

Kingdom of God Part 4

Steve Berger April 24, 2016

Review definitions of The Kingdom of God

- The Kingdom of God is the Rule and Reign of God
- The Kingdom of God is a future realm where the fullness of Kingdom glory happens. (*heaven*)
- The Kingdom of God is the realm of God we enter now, through our new birth, in order to experience the blessing of God's reign now

The Kingdom the disciples were waiting for — was not the Kingdom that came

• Daniel 2:44

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

• Luke 17:20-21

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

• Acts 1:6

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

The Kingdom that came — personal supernatural power to be a witness

• Acts 1:7-8

And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

• Hebrews 6:4-5

...have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come...

How they positioned themselves to receive tastes...

- **faith** — faith in Jesus and the power of His Name
- **obedience** — obeyed and went to Jerusalem as Jesus told them
- **patience** — waited for the promise with hopeful expectation

- **prayer** — supplication, asked, sought, knocked, Matthew 7:7-8
- **openness** — stayed and received, even when things got supernatural

Result of positioning — they tasted of the supernatural powers of age to come!

**Two more positions — seven total —
for you to incorporate into your life**

- understanding your spiritual poverty apart from Jesus
 - **Matthew 5:3**
“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

**It is the First Beatitude because it all starts right there,
“I’m spiritually broke without Jesus,”
honesty, humility, desperation!**

- **childlike receiving**
 - **Mark 10:14-15**
But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”

**innocent trust to receive, simple dependence,
“Don’t question yourself out of a taste!”**

IMPORTANT

- *Poverty, Childlikeness, Faith, Obedience, Patience, Prayer, Openness positions for tastes...*
- *the OPPOSITE DISTANCES you from tastes... opportunity to **repent and replace***

Seven positions

1. Understanding spiritual poverty apart from Jesus — leads to Kingdom tastes...

- **opposite** — **delusional self-sufficiency**... church of Laodicea... rich America
- **Revelation 3:17-19**
Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

2. Childlike receiving — innocent trust, simple dependence leads to Kingdom tastes...

- **opposite** — **distant, accusatory, questioning**... older brother syndrome

- **Luke 15:29-31**

So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.'"

3. Faith — believing God's supernatural power is for you, leads to Kingdom tastes...

- **opposite** — **doubt, unbelief**, keeps us from entering in

- **Galatians 3:5**

Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

4. Obedience — simply doing what Jesus said... regardless... leads to Kingdom tastes...

- **opposite** — **disobedience**, no Jerusalem, no waiting, no tasting

- **Act 5:29-32**

But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

5. Prayer — asking, seeking, knocking — leads to Kingdom tastes...

- **opposite** — **prayerlessness**, James 4:2, have not because you ask not

- "God does nothing but by prayer, and everything with it."¹ John Wesley

- **Luke 11:13**

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!

6. Patience — waiting on God with hopeful expectation leads to Kingdom tastes...

- **opposite** — **impatience**, leads to doubt and distraction; Hebrews 6:12, faith and patience leads to receiving promises.

- **Revelation 1:9**

I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

7. Openness — receiving supernatural leads to Kingdom tastes...

- **opposite** — **quenching, rejecting**, 2 Timothy 3:5, form, deny, resist

¹ Edited by Mark Water, *New Encyclopedia of Christian Quotations*. (Baker Books, 2000), 772

Jesus appeared to disciples, over 500 at once, but at the end the numbers were down to 120 disciples – why? Combination of opposites at work in their lives... repent, replace, be a 120!

Discussion Questions

1. Why were the Pharisees “justified” in their expectation of what they thought the Kingdom of God should be? (Daniel 2:44)
2. How does the knowledge that the Kingdom of God is “within you,” and that “we” as the body of Christ receive the power of the Holy Spirit – encourage us during politically unsure times?
3. Read Hebrews 6:4-5. Why is “tasting” a powerful analogy?
4. How do you as an individual relate to Matthew 5:3 – understanding your spiritual poverty?
5. Which of these “opposites” do you need to repent of and replace?

understanding spiritual poverty	vs.	delusional self-sufficiency
childlike receiving	vs.	distant, accusatory, questioning
faith	vs.	doubt, unbelief
obedience	vs.	disobedience
prayer	vs.	prayerlessness
patience	vs.	impatience
openness	vs.	quenching, rejecting