

“The Kingdom of God!”

Part 15: “The clash of two kingdoms!”

Matthew 4-7



Introduction: “**Christianity**” was not a NEW religion, but rather the fulfillment of God’s promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

At the time of Jesus there were an estimated 300 million people alive on the earth. How few knew the true God? How few were saved?

Matthew 7:21-27: “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven!” (vs. 21).

Disciples of Jesus will seek first His kingdom and His righteousness as we build our lives on the Rock!

I. Jesus’ entrance into the battle for souls!

The stated purpose of Jesus’ ministry was and is to build His Church, and from the beginning, Jesus had opposition!

Satan attempted to disqualify Jesus from His role as the perfect Lamb of God, but Jesus defeated Satan with one three-word phrase: “ It is written !!” (Matthew 4:4,6,10).

II Timothy 3:16-17: “All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness ...”

II Corinthians 4:1-6: “ ... the ‘god’ of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (vs. 4).

Jesus came to make disciples, to call people out of darkness, to proclaim truth about God, about sin, about salvation ... to reveal the way to enter into the kingdom of GOD!!

II. Jesus’ call to discipleship: “Repent! Follow Me!!”

From the first Jesus makes it clear that the expectations for His disciples was beyond the norm!

Jesus says to His disciples, “You are salt and light !” You exist for the glory of your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:17-20: “Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (vs. 20).

The standard, the goal for disciples of Jesus is PERFECTION !

Jesus goes on in Chapter 6 to warn about an outward righteousness that is done to impress others.

Matthew 6:33 ... The true followers of Jesus will SEEK God’s kingdom and will SEEK righteousness.

John 16:7-11: “It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you” (vs. 7).

Romans 8:1-4: “ ... in order that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in US, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit !” (vs. 4).

There is no true discipleship without the power of the Spirit transforming the hearts and minds of true believers.

III. Jesus’ teaching on the Kingdom of God ...

Matthew 6:9-13: “ ... Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven ” (vs. 9).

Matthew 7:13-14: “ ... the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few ” (vs. 14).

Matthew 7:15-20: “Every healthy tree bears good fruit” (vs. 17).

Matthew 7:24: “Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the ROCK !”

Jesus is giving here a description of those who are truly His disciples, who are citizens of His kingdom.

Galatians 5:6-18, 22-24: “ ... the fruit of the Spirit is ... ” (vs. 22).

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