

WORD PICTURES OF THE CHURCH

THE CHURCH - The Kingdom of God/Heaven

Jesus refers to the Kingdom of God as the rule and reign of God in the lives of His followers.
In that light, the Kingdom of God is synonymous with the Church.

Why is the theme of the Kingdom of God so important?
Because it was the central message of Jesus's preaching and teaching.

The whole of Jesus' life and ministry can be summed up as the invasion of the Kingdom of God into this world.

Jesus began his public ministry by proclaiming the gospel of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:14–15)

Jesus not only preached about the kingdom of God, He taught his disciples to preach about the kingdom.
Luke 9:1-10

Luke 10:1-20

In order for his disciples to preach about the kingdom they needed to learn about the kingdom.
Jesus's primary way of teaching was through parables.

Parables are short, metaphorical narratives designed to teach truths about spiritual realities in ways that reveal insights to those open to Jesus' claims about Himself but that further alienate those who are not so receptive.

What did Jesus teach about the kingdom of God/heaven?

1. The VALUE of the Kingdom of God.
 - 1). The Hidden Treasure. (Matthew 13:44)
 - 2). The Pearl of Great Value. (Matthew 13:45–46)
 - 3). The Household Treasures. (Matthew 13:52)

2. The EXPANSE of the Kingdom
 - 1.) The Yeast. (Matthew 13:33)
 - 2.) The Sprouting Seed. (Mark 4:26–29)
 - 3.) The Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:32)
 - 4.) The Net (Matthew 13:47-49)

3. Additional Kingdom Truths
 - 1). Our daily pray should be for God's rule and reign on earth to match his rule and reign in heaven (Matthew 6:9–10).
 - 2). Those who undergo persecution for living right before God reveal their destiny. (Matthew 5:10).
 - 3). The difference between a worrisome life and life of peace is our Kingdom focus (Matthew 6:31–34).
 - 4). Only the poor in spirit enter into the kingdom (Matthew 5:3).