

The Gospel of the Kingdom – Mark 1:14–15. (1/10)

Mark 1:14–15: After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ ***“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”***

1. Introduction: The Announcement of a Kingdom

Key Thought: *The gospel is not just good advice. It's good news — is an announcement of something that has happened.*

2. What Is the Gospel?

The Gospel Is:

- **God's Rescue Plan:** God sent His Son to restore the world through His life, death, and resurrection.
- **More Than Forgiveness:** It's not just about getting to heaven when we die — it's about heaven breaking into earth now – God's children bringing in the Kingdom values NOW – and then continuing the other side of our human life on earth – for all eternity.
- **A Story, Not a System:** The gospel is not a set of moral rules. It's the true story of the world — creation, fall, redemption, and restoration.

3. The Gospel of the Kingdom

Definition: The kingdom of God is 'God's reign through God's people over God's place'.

The Kingdom of God:- Not geographical, it's spiritual. • Not only future, it's breaking into the present.

4. How It's Different from Other Religions

John 14:6: Jesus says: ***“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”.***

Every other religion says: • Do this and maybe God will accept you. • Follow these steps, live this way, earn your way up. **Ephesians 2:8-9:** ***“It is by grace you have been saved, through faith... not by works.”***

5. Personal Applications: Repent and Believe

1. Repent : Each of us to **turn from sin and self-rule** and to commit to fully following God's ways and will for our lives – now and for all eternity – whatever the cost
Believe – Trust in the King. Believe the good news is really for you and for me and for all whom we love. Believe that His kingdom is better than yours and mine.

“Your Kingdom Come: Heaven on Earth” Matthew 6:9–10 – Kingdom 2/10

1. What Is the Kingdom of God?

The "Kingdom of God" is not a place, but a reality: it is God's reign and rule breaking into our broken world.

- Where truth reigns over lies. • Where peace replaces violence.
- Where love pushes out hate. • Where Christ is King, and hearts are transformed.

2. The Kingdom Has Come—And Is Still Coming

The Spirit is the power of the Kingdom at work in us today. Already... and Not Yet

The Kingdom is already here—in Jesus, in the Spirit, in the Church.

But it is not yet fully here—we still see war, injustice, and sin. So we pray, with hope and urgency:

“Your Kingdom come...”

3. What Does It Mean to Desire God's Kingdom?

It Means We Want God's Will Done on Earth. Not just in heaven. But here. Now.

In our families. In our city. In politics. In our own hearts. To desire the Kingdom means we are done with compromise.

4. What Does It Look Like to Seek the Kingdom?

Personally: Invite God to rule in your desires, time, money, relationships.

In the Church: Do we reflect God's Kingdom values? Do we love the outsider? Do we forgive, serve, and proclaim truth?

In Society: Seek justice, advocate for the poor, work for peace—not as a political agenda, but a Kingdom agenda.

5. A Word on Child Baptism: The Kingdom Belongs to These

Jesus said: *“Let the little children come to me... for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”* (Luke 18:16)

Baptism is a declaration: This child belongs to God. God's promises are for them.

The Kingdom is coming to their life. So every baptism is a Kingdom moment—God claiming, marking, and reigning.

The Hidden Power & Priceless Value of the Kingdom. Matthew 13:31–33,

44–46 3/10

1. THE KINGDOM IS SMALL IN APPEARANCE BUT POWERFUL IN IMPACT

In Matthew 13:31–32 Jesus says **the kingdom is like a mustard seed**—the smallest of all seeds—but it grows into a tree big enough for birds to nest in.

Maybe this morning you feel your faith, or your efforts are small and insignificant. Maybe the Church, globally, nationally and in our parish feels insignificant in a world of political power and entertainment empires. But the Kingdom doesn't work by the world's standards. God starts small—and ends big.

2. THE KINGDOM IS UNSEEN BUT TRANSFORMATIVE

In Matthew 13:33, Jesus compares the **Kingdom to yeast mixed into flour**.

Leave it out and you know what happens – pretty much nothing! Once in, you can't see it anymore, but the whole batch rises!

Revival in a family doesn't always begin with everyone getting saved on day one. Often, it starts with one believer—living with integrity, praying faithfully, showing love. Slowly, hearts soften. That's yeast at work.

3. THE KINGDOM IS WORTH EVERYTHING YOU HAVE

In both parables, the main character **finds something of surpassing value and sells everything to obtain it**. Both sell all. Both recognize something infinitely valuable. Both act decisively and joyfully.

The Kingdom isn't one more thing in your life; it's the **main thing**. It demands **full surrender**.

C.S. Lewis once said: *“He who has God and everything else has no more than he who has God only.”*

4. THE JOY OF THE KINGDOM

Are we living with Kingdom joy? Do others see it? Or are we treating God, even service in church like a religious obligation?

5. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US TODAY?

Firstly: See God's Kingdom in small things. That may be a kind word, a word of encouragement – not criticism. A quiet prayer, a seed of faith—God can multiply it.

Secondly, trust His quiet work. Even when you don't see it, God is transforming hearts.

Thirdly, live with open hands. Don't cling to temporary things. The Kingdom is worth everything. What might you be holding on to in your life that you need to let go of, in order that your hands – and your life – are fully open to receiving all that God wants to give you, and do through you for His Kingdom?

Fourthly, live with joy. Does your life and mine reflect joy? The treasure is already ours in Christ.

Entering the Kingdom of God - "Unless You Are Born Again: John 3:3–5. (4/10).

Jesus answered him, “³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.^[a]” ⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

I. Introduction

Key question: *What does it really mean to enter the Kingdom of God?*

2. The Necessity of the New Birth

Verse 3: ***“Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”***

Key question: have we, at some time in our lives, had such a spiritual re-birth, a transformation, a time where we repented of our sin, and made a 100% commitment to Jesus and allowed his Spirit to come into our lives?

3. What Is the Kingdom of God?

The Kingdom of God is: **God's rule and reign in the hearts of His people, Already present (in Christ),** but Not yet fully consummated (until Christ returns).

It's not just a place — it's a new way of living under God's kingship.

4. The Response of Nicodemus

Salvation is not about: **Family background, Or Moral effort, Or religious rituals.**
It's about a new spiritual birth — through repentance and faith.

5 Application: How Do We Enter the Kingdom?

Repentance: Turning from sin.

Faith: Trusting in Jesus alone — His death and resurrection.

No other faith or religion, or adherents to those religions will inherit Heaven – Jesus says, only those who have repented and believed in his son Jesus, and been spiritually reborn.

Upside-Down Kingdom: "*Kingdom People in a Broken World*": Matthew 5:1–12.(5/10)

Sermon on the Mount begins with a **description**—not of what you must do to enter the Kingdom, but of what the citizens of that Kingdom **are like**. **Not a checklist** of virtues to **earn salvation**; they're a **description** of a transformed **heart and life**.

I. The Portrait of Kingdom People

1. Poor in Spirit (v.3): Not materially poor, but those who **know their need** for God.

Where in our lives do you pretend we don't need God?

2. Those Who Mourn (v.4): Not just sadness, and not just over the grief of a loved one, but **mourning over sin and the brokenness** around us.

3. The Meek (v.5): Original word used in the Bible is closer related to meekness as 'strength under control'

4. Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness (v.6): Means a "Deep desire for God's will and justice".

5. The Merciful (v.7): Key characteristic of the Kingdom is that Kingdom people give what others **don't deserve**—just like God did for us.

6. Pure in Heart (v.8): Pure in heart is all about Integrity, not just ritual purity. It is about a focused devotion to God.

7. Peacemakers (v.9): "Blessed are the peacemakers", note he didn't say: peace-lovers, but peace-**makers**, those who actively bring about reconciliation.

8. Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake (v.10–12): Faithfulness brings opposition, but Jesus says rejoice!

2. The Reversal of the Kingdom

Jesus' Kingdom flips the values of the world upside down.

World Says	Jesus Says
Be proud	Be poor in spirit
Avoid sadness	Mourn
Assert yourself	Be meek
Seek comfort	Hunger for righteousness
Get revenge	Show mercy
Look out for yourself	Be pure in heart
Win at all costs	Make peace
Be popular	Be persecuted for Me

3. The Invitation and Mission

Jesus isn't just **describing** a new way of life—He's calling **us into it**.

Jesus is the fulfilment of **every** Beatitude.
He was poor in spirit—He emptied Himself.
He mourned over Jerusalem.
He was meek—riding in on a donkey.
He hungered for righteousness—"My food is to do the will of My Father."
He showed mercy to sinners.
He was pure in heart—tempted, yet without sin.
He made peace through the cross.
He was persecuted unto death.

Kingdom Citizens in the World: Romans 14:17.

(6/10 – 21 September 2025)

"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

A little boy was asked in Sunday school, *"What is the kingdom of God?"*
He thought for a moment and said, *"That's where God is in charge."*

The Kingdom of God is about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. As Kingdom citizens, we are called to embody these in a world full of division, hostility, and despair.

1. The Kingdom Is About Righteousness

Not self-righteousness, but being made right with God through Christ and living rightly in relationship with others. Positional (declared righteous by faith) and practical (pursue justice and holiness).

Christians - we need to regularly ask ourselves: Do my choices - online, at work, at home - reflect God's standards, not just cultural norms?

2. The Kingdom Is About Peace

Peace with God through Christ (Romans 5:1),

Peace with one another—especially in the church family.

Peace as wholeness (shalom): right relationships, reconciliation, flourishing.

Q: Do we bring peace or conflict into our relationships - be that family, work or in church?

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

In the workplace, at school, even in disagreements in church, our calling is not to win arguments but to win people with peace and to Christ!

3. The Kingdom Is About Joy in the Holy Spirit

Joy - not superficial happiness, but a deep gladness rooted in God's presence and promises.

The Spirit produces this joy even in hardship (see Philippians 4:4, and Acts 16:25).

Joy is evidence that the Kingdom has broken into a world of despair.

Christians who radiate joy become powerful witnesses.

Q: *"Am I cultivating joy by staying in step with the Spirit, or am I letting bitterness and fear rob me?"*

Conclusion

The Apostle Paul says:

- The Kingdom is not about eating and drinking.
- It's not about secondary issues.

- It's about what God is doing in us through His Spirit—making us righteous, peaceful, and joyful.

The Kingdom – an outpost in the world.

Q: This week, how might we live intentionally as citizen of that Kingdom:-

At home, in our relationships, in work, in the voluntary groups we belong to, in the village and as members of the church.