

Matthew 6:33; Jesus Christ the door through which we enter and see the Kingdom. We need the Word of the Kingdom to continue walking in a way according to the journey of faith – seeking first the Kingdom and His righteousness.

When we walked through the door at salvation; something died. Me! Born again; a new creature in Christ.. many amazing truths.. each one a part of the overall picture. Having the Word of the Kingdom – understanding and persevering in the Word; the gospel of the Kingdom is the good news regarding every aspect of The Kingdom. Faith is a journey.

Acts 1:1-3	40 days Christ spoke to them of things pertaining to the Kingdom
V4-8	Holy Spirit: disciples wanted the Kingdom to be set up right there and now; not so
V8	<i>This Kingdom is to be preached</i> to the uttermost parts of the earth <i>and then the end will come</i>

This Kingdom has governmental rights; a different way of doing things; a different language; a new way of doing life. We cannot live 'of the world' 'in the Kingdom'

The greatest failure is to be successful in the wrong assignment. The Church's assignment: Kingdom First.

Matthew 24:14 This gospel of the kingdom *will be preached...* and the end will come.

Seeking first the Kingdom is to ***prioritise.. to make first; to consider and act upon as if of the most importance; of the highest value.***

Prioritised lives means our time is protected; our energy is protected and our talents are protected (because they are all used for His glory) – this clearly makes decisions easier.

Lives that are not prioritised will

- Waste time
- Be busy with the wrong things
- Spend time on the unnecessary
- Major on minors
- Invest in the unimportant
- Abuse talents/gifts
- Forfeit purpose

Matthew 13: see Kingdom in v11; 18; 24; 31; 33; 38; 41; 44; 45; 47; & 52

The Kingdom holds no places for seconds.

Matthew 18 and the parable of the sower: can be born again but must understand and walk in the things of the Kingdom: hear, retain; persevere and producing the fruit of the Word (Luke 8)

The kingdom :

Matthew 13

V31 like a mustard seed; incorruptible seed that is to be sown, grown and become something

V33 will invade your life if you let it

V52 everyone taught about the kingdom will have a storehouse, and out of it bring both old and new.. (hold on to what you already know and walk in and build upon it – this is growth)

Matthew 11:12 the violent 'bring in' the kingdom concepts

V44 treasure of ultimate and great worth

V45 pearl of great price (consider that it cost the darling of heaven for us to receive it: Jesus is our salvation; He desires to be Lord also)

Illustration of the pearl of great price:

Christ, Lordship of: Pearl of Great Price

"I want this pearl. How much is it?" "Well," the seller says, "it's very expensive." "But, how much?" we ask. "Well, a very large amount." "Do you think I could buy it?" "Oh, of course, everyone can buy it." "But, didn't you say it was very expensive?" "Yes." "Well, how much is it?" "Everything you have," says the seller. We make up our minds, "All right, I'll buy it," we say. "Well, what do you have?" he wants to know. "Let's write it down." "Well, I have ten thousand dollars in the bank." "Good- -ten thousand dollars. What else?" "That's all.. That's all I have." "Well, I have a few dollars here in my pocket." "How much?" We start digging. "Well, let's see--thirty, forty, sixty, eighty, a hundred, a hundred twenty dollars." "That's fine. What else do you have?" "Well, nothing. That's all." "Where do you live?" He's still probing. "In my house. Yes, I have a house." "The house, too, then." He writes that down. "You mean I have to live in my camper?" "You have a camper? That, too. What else?" "I'll have to sleep in my car!" "You have a car?" "Two of them." "Both become mine, both cars. What else?" "Well, you already have my money, my house, my camper, my cars. What more do you want?" "Are you alone in this world?" "No I have a wife and two children....." "Oh, yes, your wife and children, too. What else?" "I have nothing left! I am left alone now." Suddenly the seller exclaims, "Oh, I almost forgot! You yourself, too! Everything becomes mine--wife, children, house, money, cars--and you too." Then he goes on. "Now listen--I will allow you to use all these things for the time being. But don't forget that they are mine, just as you are. And whenever I need any of them you must give them up, because now I am the owner."

From Juan Carlos Ortiz, Disciple (Wheaton, IL: Creation House, 1975) p34-35 as quoted in Charles R Swindoll, Improving Your Serve p35-36

With Christ as Lord; this is a place of great freedom. Great struggles will come and precious things must be laid down – this will never deplete us however but increase and complete us.

The Kingdom of God – the heavenly **realities** are radical. Revelation 21; most glorious place but we don't want to leave anything undone. What does Heaven look like? V15ff.. imagine the oysters! And note that the streets are not paved with gold, but **are** gold. Heavenly realities await; where O death is your sting? But we cannot just camp here. We must prioritise the Kingdom here and now: Your Kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven!

PRIORITISE KINGDOM (will avoid the tragedy of being successful in doing the wrong thing)

Him first, no matter the cost. The gospel of the Kingdom **will then** be preached and then, the end.

How often do we hear 'Come Lord Jesus' when He has not changed His command to 'Go'.. the greatest Mexican standoff.