



Stepping Into the Kingdom

Matthew 5:20, 6:10, 33; Acts 1:3, 19:8 (pew Bible pp. 892, 894; 1003, 1024)



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- I. What do the following verses help us to understand what the central message of Jesus was? Matthew 5:20, Matthew 6:10, 33, Acts 1:3, Acts 19:8.
- II. Our VCBC Vision statement says: We envision a community of faith where all members are brought into connection with God and one another in a way that reflects the presence and power of the Kingdom of God.
 - A. Three things initially formed the kingdom of God.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 - B. What is the kingdom of God? How would we define it?
 - C. How does the kingdom work?
 - D. What part does repentance play in stepping into the kingdom?
 - E. The Kingdom demands a radical change in lifestyle? Luke 3.
 - F. The Kingdom calls for a radical re-integration of our lives.

- I. **Getting Started**
 1. What idea was new to you in today's message?
 2. How did it change your thinking?
- II. **Digging Deeper**
 3. What happened that broke apart the initial three ideas that shaped the kingdom? Can you think of an example of this?
 4. How does repentance relate to the truth of the Kingdom? See Mark 1:15.
 5. Read Luke 3:7-14. How does John apply the work of the Kingdom in the daily matters of life?
 6. In *Guilt and Grace*, Paul Tournier says: our sense of sin lacks depth. What does this mean?
- III. **Applying God's Truth**
 7. Pastor Tom said: The central battleground between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan is in the hearts and minds of people. This is where the clash of wills takes place – this is where the battle is won or lost. What does this mean in your life?
 8. Where does God call for a radical change of lifestyle in us because of the reality of the kingdom?
 9. What did you understand about Pastor Tom's two diagrams about moving from a balanced life to a kingdom lifestyle? What would this mean for you?
 10. Reflect on Jesus praying in Gethsemane just before he went to the cross to die. He prayed: father not my will be done, but yours. This was a "kingdom prayer". In what area of your life right now do you need to be praying that?