

Summer Quarter 2023

Christ Proclaims the Kingdom

Understanding God's Kingdom

June 4	Upside-Down Kingdom	<i>Matthew 5:1-16</i>
June 11	A Perfect Kingdom	<i>Matthew 5:17-18, 21-22, 27-28, 38-39, 43-44</i>
June 18	A Victorious Kingdom	<i>Mark 3:13-19; 6:6b-13</i>
June 25	Growing God's Kingdom	<i>Matthew 13:24-33</i>

Responding to God's Kingdom

July 2	Praying to God	<i>Luke 11:1-13</i>
July 9	Accept God's Invitation!	<i>Luke 14:7-11, 15-24</i>
July 16	A Warning for the Hard-Hearted	<i>Luke 16:19-31</i>
July 23	Separating the Sheep and the Goats	<i>Matthew 25:31-46</i>
July 30	Ears to Hear	<i>Matthew 13:9-17</i>
August 6	Forgiving One Another	<i>Matthew 18:21-35</i>

Entering God's Kingdom

August 13	A Story of Forgiveness	<i>Luke 15:11-24</i>
August 20	God's Gracious Rewards	<i>Matthew 20:1-16</i>
August 27	God's Great Mercy	<i>Luke 18:9-14</i>

This quarter's lessons will focus on God's kingdom. All of our lessons are taken from Matthew, Mark, and Luke's Gospels. The first four lessons form a unit that focuses on understanding God's kingdom.

Our first lesson is from Matthew's account of Jesus' Beatitudes. In the Beatitudes, the principles of the secular world are reversed; so they seem quite alien from a worldly perspective. Our second lesson is also from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Jesus came to establish a kingdom of righteousness that perfectly fulfills God's law. The third lesson, from Mark chapters 3 and 6, is about God's kingdom and its victory over the kingdoms of this world. Our fourth lesson examines three parables about how God's kingdom grows.

Lessons 5 through 10 form our second unit, which is about how we are to respond to God's kingdom. Lesson 5 is taken from Luke's account of Jesus' model prayer. The Lord's Prayer sets an example for us about the priorities of God's kingdom. Lesson 6 deals with Jesus' teachings on humility. Lesson 7 deals with Jesus' story of the rich man and Lazarus. The Scriptures are sufficient to produce saving faith; those who reject their witness would not be persuaded by even the greatest miracle. Lesson 8 is about Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats. Those who minister to needy believers minister to the Lord Jesus Himself. Lesson 9 deals with Jesus' use of parables and what it takes to understand their meaning. Lesson 10 examines the role of forgiveness in a Christian's life; if our sins are truly forgiven by God, we will in turn be forgiving toward those who wrong us.

Our final unit of study for this quarter focuses on entering God's kingdom. God restores the lost, deals with us justly, and honors the humble over the proud.

Lesson 11 is about Jesus' parable of the prodigal son. God delights to welcome repentant sinners into His kingdom, no matter how far they have strayed from Him. Lesson 12 is about Jesus' parable of the vineyard workers. God is faithful in dealing with all His servants generously. Lesson 13 discusses Jesus' story of the Pharisee and the tax collector. Those who rely on their own righteousness will be condemned, but those who realize their own sinfulness and call upon the Lord for mercy and forgiveness will be saved.

May God bless you abundantly through this quarter's lessons from His Word, the Bible.