

The Kingdom of Jesus: An Eternal Kingdom

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1. Introduction

- Things used to last longer
 - The furnace in the house my folks bought in Nipawin... original furnace from the 50s...
 - Our furnace is 12 years old and we've already had to replace the blower motor and the control board!
 - Clothes...
- It's hard to think of anything lasting a long time these days
- It is precisely this truth and reality that helps us to stay grounded and focused in a constantly changing world

2. The Kingdom of Jesus has eternal value

1 Peter 1:3-4—Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

Matthew 13:44-46—“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all that he had and bought that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

- Eternity has already started, it lasts for this life and continues on into the next life
 - For the believer, this life is the worst it's ever going to be
 - For those who do not belong to Jesus, this life is the best it's ever going to be
- Living by the principles and values of the kingdom has value in this life, bringing joy, purpose, community, peace, and blessing... even through difficulties
- When life gets difficult, confusing, painful, and unfair... it is the presence of Jesus and His kingdom in our life that helps us make it through...
 - Story of 2 funerals

3. The Kingdom of Jesus has Eternal influence

Matthew 13:31-33—He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches. ”He told the still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

Every seed that is sown has the potential

- The idea of multiplication is a kingdom idea
- Are apple trees designed to produce apples, or to make more apple trees? (the answer is BOTH)
- The kingdom idea of influence... Jesus influences our lives through His word, His presence, and His activity in the world around us
- We, in turn, influence others... we are the tree he has cultivated to produce fruit and to multiply... discipleship, kingdom influence (Great Commission)
- Are we influencers of the world around us, or are we influenced by the world around us.

4. The Kingdom of Jesus means Eternal Joy

Romans 14:17— For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

Parable of the treasure hidden in a field

- Joy of salvation
- Joy of being loved, rescued, and adopted
- Joy of having a purpose higher than just “existing”
- Joy of getting closer and closer to the One who saved us

James 1:2-4— Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- Even when it's bad in this life, it's still GOOD because God is good, and because even difficult things can make us stronger in our faith.

To be a follower of Jesus means to be a people who are not only aware of eternity but who live deeply into the reality that this eternal kingdom is meant to have a great impact on this life as well, we do not simply “wait it out until we get to heaven”