

## **“SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD!” (Matthew 6)**

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**INTRO:** This morning we’re going to begin a new series of messages on the theme, **“Seek First the Kingdom of God!”**

Jesus taught us to pray for God’s kingdom to come (Matt. 6:9-10).

One of the manifestations of God’s kingdom is trust replacing worry (Matt. 6:25-33).

**“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matt. 6:33)**

What is the kingdom of God? How do we seek first the kingdom of God?

The Greek word for **“seek”** means: Endeavor, inquire, require, go about, desire, to worship; and is also translated: seek for, go about, desire.

The Greek word for **“first”** means: Before, chiefly, first of all, firstly in time, place, order or importance.

### **I. WHAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT.**

- A. It is not heaven, although it comes from heaven.
- B. It is not the gospel of salvation, although it includes salvation.
- C. It is not as much about how to get from earth to heaven as it is about how to get heaven to earth.
- D. It is not political but spiritual.
- E. It is not only future, but also present.
  - 1. It is not relegated only to heaven or a future millennium, but is at hand - within reach (Matt. 4:17; 26:45-46), has come (Matt. 12:28) and is a present reality!
  - 2. While the kingdom of God has come, there are still elements of the kingdom which are future (Lk. 22:29-30; 1Cor. 15:24; Rev. 11:15).
  - 3. The kingdom of God is ever progressing (Isa. 9:7)!

### **II. WHAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS.**

#### **Four elements of a kingdom:**

- 1. A King - the one in authority [Jesus].
- 2. A domain - the territory over which the king rules [the world].
- 3. Subjects - those living in the domain under the king’s rule [believers].
- 4. A culture - the principles by which the kingdom is governed [the Scriptures].

#### **Definitions of the Kingdom of God:**

- 1. The rule or reign (governance) of God (kingdom - the king’s domain).
- 2. God’s will being done on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10).
- 3. Righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17; Ps. 89:14).
- 4. God’s power and provision in and through His children (Lk. 17:21; 1Cor. 4:20; Matt. 6:33).

#### **Illustrations of the Kingdom of God:**

- 1. Christianity’s Operating System.
- 2. Embassy/Ambassador (2Cor. 5:20; Eph. 6:19-20; Phil. 3:20; Matt. 28:18-20; Lk. 10:19).

**CONCLUSION:** Let’s seek first the kingdom of God and experience God’s abundant kingdom provision and blessing to transform our world! It’s within your current reach!