

## “SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD [Part 2]!”

Pastor Mark Johnson

July 20, 2025

**INTRO:** Jesus taught us to pray for God’s kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:9-10). He went on in vv. 25-33 to tell us that we shouldn’t worry about our provision, but instead trust God, and ended with telling us to **“seek first the kingdom of God ...”** (v. 33)  
Last week we looked at what the kingdom of God is not, and what the kingdom of God is.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

- The Gospel [Good News] of the Kingdom is the Gospel of the New Testament (Lk. 16:16; Mt. 11:12)!
- 1. It is the gospel John the Baptist preached (Matt. 3:1-2).
- 2. It is the gospel Jesus preached (Matt. 4:17; Lk. 4:43; Acts 1:3).
- 3. It is the gospel Jesus’ followers preached (Lk. 9:2; Matt. 10:7; Acts 19:8; 20:25).
- 4. It should be given top priority in our life (Matt. 6:10, 33; Lk. 16:16; Matt. 11:12).
  - A. Pray for it to come from heaven to earth (Matt. 6:10).
  - B. Seek it first (Matt. 6:33).
  - C. Press into it (Lk. 16:16).
  - D. Take it by force (Matt. 11:12).
- 5. It is ever progressing (Isa. 9:7)!

### ***But didn’t Jesus say only a few people would make it to heaven in Matthew 7:13-14?***

- I believe Jesus was talking about how difficult it was for people to enter eternal life under the old covenant not under the new covenant (contrast Matt. 19:16-17 with Acts 16:30-31).  
[See also Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 4:4; 6:7; 9:42; 11:24; 14:21; 17:12; 18:8-10; 19:18-20; Acts 4:32; 5:14; 6:2; 8:6; 14:1; Col. 1:5-6, 23; Rom. 1:1, 7-8; Rev. 7:9]

### ***But doesn’t The Parable of the Sower & Seed imply that only 25% of those who hear the gospel end up saved (Matt. 13:3-9, 18-23)?*** [I’ll address next week.]

- We will also look at seven other **“kingdom parables”** that begin with **“The kingdom of heaven is like ...”** (Matt. 13:24, 31, 33, 44, 45, 47, 52)

### **CONCLUSION:** The ever-progressing gospel of the kingdom is the gospel of the New Testament!

- Let’s seek first [aggressively, proactively assertively press into] the kingdom of God and experience His abundant provision (Matt. 6:33)!
- Let’s pray and believe for God’s kingdom to come more fully on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10)!