

The Kingdom of God

The Bliss of the Present Kingdom



Introduction

- ◎ **Summary of meaning of “Blessed.”**
- ◎ **Lessons taught**
- ◎ **Present possession of the kingdom—Inclusion—theirs is the kingdom of heaven, verses 3 and 10.**

Began with John

- **Matthew 3:1-12**
- **Voice of one crying in the wilderness**

Jesus' Proclamation

- **Matthew 4:8**—devil shows Jesus kingdoms of this world—intentional perspective
- Jesus begins his early ministry, **Matthew 4:17**—preaching as proclamation of that kingdom

Present kingdom in the Beatitudes

- **The kingdom as present gift of God's presence**
- **The kingdom as gracious blessing of enhanced relationship**

Present kingdom in Matthew's gospel

- **Dynamic reign of God and salvation**
- **Gift of God's presence and gift of salvation**
- **God's in-breaking through Jesus as gift of Himself to humanity**
- **This is reflected in numerous sayings...**

Our current thought and practice

- **Heart condition—**is God there?
- **Kingdom values**
- **Earthly kingdom vs. heavenly kingdom**
- **Interesting that persecution is pictured as accompanying kingdom commitment.**
- **Kingdom demands commitment**
- **Demands allegiance to ruler**

Conclusion

- Preparation=Jesus & John
- Proclamation=here and near
- “Is”—present possession
- Day to day living
- Current thought & practice
- Kingdom values & commitment