

GOD'S PLAN UNFOLDS

Part 8

Gospels: Kingdom Parables

**Jesus the King arrived as
predicted, unfolding and
advancing God's kingdom plan**

**GOD'S PLAN UNFOLDS, PART 8 -
MESSAGE**

NT OVERVIEW: GOSPELS – KINGDOM PARABLES

The King preached the gospel of the kingdom

► Mt 4:23; Lk 4:18-19; Isa 61:1-2

Entrance to Jesus' kingdom is by repentance and faith in Jesus

► Mt 4:17, 23; Jn 3:3; Mk 1:15

► Mt 5:20; 7:21; 18:3; 19:14

► Mt 5:3, 5, 10; 6:10, 33; 25:34

Kingdom entrance isn't automatic

► Mt 8:5-13; Isa 25:6

“Jesus’ words to those Capernaum Jews was startling in the extreme. What He said utterly contradicted everything taught by their rabbis [re: the heavenly feast]...In the eyes of many Jews, one of the most significant and appealing things about the feast was that it would be totally free of Gentiles. But at that meal, Jesus said, many Gentiles would be present and many Jews absent” (John MacArthur, *Matthew 8-15*, p. 14)

NT OVERVIEW: GOSPELS – KINGDOM PARABLES

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The kingdom requires radically new ways of thinking

► Mt 9:16-17

► Like new cloth and new wine, the kingdom through the New Covenant can't be mixed with the Old Covenant

NT OVERVIEW: GOSPELS – KINGDOM PARABLES

The kingdom requires radical response

- ▶ Mt 11:12
- ▶ “Because the dynamic power of the Kingdom has invaded the world, people are to respond with a radical reaction” (George Ladd, *A Theology of the NT*, p. 69)
- ▶ *Let nothing keep you from following Jesus the King!*

Satan is partially bound

- ▶ Mt 12:28-29; 1 Jn 3:8; Mt 16:18
- ▶ Wielding kingdom power, the King took out the devil's defense!
- ▶ Satan still has a formidable offense, but he can't keep us from plundering his kingdom

NT OVERVIEW: GOSPELS – KINGDOM PARABLES

As Prophet, Jesus unfolded more of God's kingdom plan

- ▶ See Matthew 13
- ▶ He often taught in parables (Ps 78:2-4; Mt 13:34-35)

NT OVERVIEW: GOSPELS – KINGDOM PARABLES

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Not everyone who hears the invitation will enter the kingdom

- ▶ **Mt 13:1-9; 18-23 – Parable of the soils**
- ▶ **Different reactions exist in every people group and many will refuse to enter**

NT OVERVIEW: GOSPELS – KINGDOM PARABLES

Believers and unbelievers coexist in the world

- ▶ Mt 13:24-30; 36-43 – Wheat & tares
- ▶ Judgment will come at the end of the age
- ▶ Only believers will live “in the kingdom” as a place (Dan 12:3)

THE KINGDOM IS THE SPIRITUAL RULE OF JESUS

Mt 13:24-30; 36-43 – Wheat & tares

“At present, the kingdom is a spiritual dominion, not an earthly geopolitical realm”

(John MacArthur, Parables: The Mysteries of God's Kingdom Revealed Through The Stories Jesus Told, p. 40)

Currently: the kingdom exists IN the sons of the kingdom

Later: the sons of the kingdom will exist IN the kingdom as a place (Dan 12:3)

The current phase of the kingdom appears to be unimpressively insignificant

- ▶ Mt 13:31-33 – Mustard seed & leaven
- ▶ This is not about “evolutionary progress” (David Wenham, *The Parables of Jesus*, p. 57)
- ▶ But one day it will come in all its glorious fulness!

NT OVERVIEW: GOSPELS – KINGDOM PARABLES

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Jesus' kingdom is more valuable than anything

► Mt 13:44-45 – Hidden treasure, costly pearl

Not trusting in Jesus by faith is a great tragedy

► Mt 13:47-50 - Dragnet