

“Your Kingdom Come!” – Gospels

Many will come near the Kingdom of God, but few will find it's secret and enter in. The Kingdom is not a place but a person.

I. Kingdom Proximity - Matthew 4:17 (NIV), Luke 17:20-21

II. Kingdom Happiness - Matthew 5:2-11

- These are eight ways we can pursue happiness from heaven. Each one is relational and conditional.

Truly happy are...

1. **the poor in spirit**, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven: When we are bankrupt of pride there is more room for God's Spirit and his rule in our life.
2. **those who mourn**: When we grieve our losses and our sin, we find ourselves embraced by God's love and forgiveness.
3. **the meek**: When we don't take by force what we want in this world but use our power to benefit others, we find ourselves rightful owners of what really matters.
4. **those who hunger and thirst for righteousness**: When we reject the empty relationships of the world and do what's right, we are find deep relationships with God and others.
5. **the merciful**: When we offer compassion and forgiveness instead of anger, we find ourselves receiving the same.
6. **the pure in heart**: When we love others from a selfless heart, we find ourselves looking into the face of God.
7. **the peacemakers**: When we work for peace and camaraderie instead of taking offense and vilifying others, we truly take on the likeness of our Father in Heaven.
8. **those who are persecuted**, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven: When people attack us because we refuse to conform to their culture and share the truth and love of Jesus Christ, then great is our reward in heaven!

III. Kingdom Teaching – Luke 4:43

IV. Kingdom Power And Authority - Luke 4:36; 6:19

V. Kingdom Secret To Bearing Fruit – Luke 8:1, 4-15

1. No soil (the hard heart)
2. Not enough soil (the shallow heart)
3. Competition For Soil (the crowded heart)
4. Good deep soil (the fruitful heart)

VI. Kingdom Prayer – Matthew 6:9-11

- Luke 9:1-2

Devotion:

1. When you read the Beatitudes, which ones brings encourage to your heart because you are experiencing them. Which one brings you the most challenge and why? Ask the Lord to help you experience the true happiness of living it out.
2. How would you describe the soil condition of your heart right now? What would it take to remove rocks or pull weeds to deepen that soil?
3. When you pray “Our Father in heaven, ... your kingdom come,” ask him how you can help him advance it in someone's life.