

## **“Thy Kingdom Come”!**

*Who said, “Thy Kingdom Come”? Jesus, of course. And what was the context? He was teaching us to pray. What was in Jesus’ mind when He instructed us to pray this way? He wanted to put His passion for His Father’s Kingdom in us. Maybe He smiled when He spoke these words to His beloved men, for He knew beforehand what would happen to their hearts as they followed Him in prayer.*

*What is the Kingdom of God? It was, after all, the theme of all that Jesus preached and demonstrated.*

*When a king sits on his throne and rules, his kingdom is defined by the extent and nature of his authority. It is all about authority. Satan has a kingdom that is defined by the people and the realm in which his authority is exercised. Jesus came as the unrecognized King, and He initiated the rule of God a.k.a. the Kingdom.*

*Wherever Jesus was received, the authority of God broke forth with the effects of His reign. For this reason, demons were overpowered, sicknesses were healed, and sins were forgiven, because the Kingdom of God was operating with force!*

*The Kingdom of God has not yet come fully. That will happen when Jesus returns in glory; but Jesus introduced God’s hors d’oeuvres of authority over Satan and creation (nature). When Jesus does come back, He will be clearly installed as the King; and the Kingdom will re-create the earth and reverse all the effects of the curse!*

*Oh what a different Kingdom it is! Jesus spent three years teaching about what God the Father is like and how His Kingdom functions. His parables were bridges to help us understand things that are quite foreign to us. His preaching and miracles boldly declared God’s authority with the effect that people had to choose. They would embrace or reject!*

*There is a problem, however. When we say, “He preached the gospel,” we mean, “He preached about Christ dying in our place, about faith, about forgiveness, peace with God, and eternal life.” When you read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, however, and see the same word, “gospel,” it is referring to what Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God.*

*Our problem is that we may not distinguish between the two uses of the word, “gospel”; when this is the case, we understand our salvation as personal without realizing that we have actually entered another Kingdom.*

*Go on an adventure by studying Jesus’ life message: the Kingdom of God. Let His heart passion, “Thy Kingdom Come,” become the guiding influence of your prayers and thus your life.*

## Lesson 1

Why did thousands pour out of Jerusalem, Judea, and the Jordan valley to listen to John the Baptist? What would motivate them to publicly confess their sins? What would persuade them to not only renounce their sins but to confess that being a Jew was not enough to gain God's approval?

They learned to read and write using the Old Testament, and therefore, they were deeply impressed with the concept of the Kingdom of God, the coming Messiah, the Son of Man, and the final Day of Judgment. They were waiting for God to do something!

When John preached, "Repent, the Kingdom of heaven is at hand," many believed his message. Finally, the awaited King was on His way! They must be ready!

Scripture Reading: Read Matthew 3:2-12 twice, once quickly to see the big picture and then again to read for the details. (*15 minutes*)

What do you think John's concept of the Kingdom was based on in this passage?

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Support your answer. What did John say that causes you to arrive at this conclusion?

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What do you think John meant when he said, "The axe is already laid at the root of the trees"?

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Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Pray the Lord's Prayer.

Linger over, "Thy Kingdom Come."

Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and ears to the presence of God's Kingdom.

Worship the King of the Kingdom!

## Lesson 2

John preached “the gospel” to the people, and their responses were radical, urgent, and unprecedented. You can only understand this if you recognize the level of expectation that existed at that time.

Having just lived through 9/11 and the tsunami, we can understand how the atmosphere can be charged with a certain influence which causes people to respond en masse in ways they ordinarily would not.

Luke says, “The people were in a state of expectation”; and God sent John for the purpose of preparing them to recognize Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of Man, and as the King.

Scripture Study: Read Luke 3:3-18. (*15 minutes*)

Looking at Luke’s account, describe the content of what John was preaching.

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What do you think John expected Jesus to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read Matthew 11:3-6. Why do you think John was in danger of becoming offended with Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

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Sometimes Jesus does not act as we expect. What does He want you to understand from John’s struggle? \_\_\_\_\_

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Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Thank your Savior for bringing the Kingdom here!

Pray, “Thy Kingdom Come!”

Pray God’s will into the situations of your life.

Pray for God’s fame to be spread.

### Lesson 3

Jesus had to qualify as a man who had not sinned in order to be free from the dominion of Satan Himself. He was born of a virgin so His father was not from Adam's race; and He explained to His cousin, John, that He must fulfill all righteousness.

Then He, as the last Adam, bound Satan by overcoming his every temptation. At last God's authority was to be expressed through a man; and Satan's hold upon people was about to be broken!

Thus the Kingdom of God broke into this world, and immediately there were evidences of freedom and relief from Satan's bondage.

Scripture Study: Read Matthew 12:28-30. *(15 minutes)*

Why does casting out demons show that God's Kingdom has come upon you?

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What does Jesus mean by, "the strong man's house"? \_\_\_\_\_

What does Jesus mean by, "his property"? \_\_\_\_\_

How can Jesus' entire ministry be summed up as "plundering his house"?

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How does this apply to your life today? \_\_\_\_\_

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Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Pray, "Lord, show me your Kingdom."

Ask the Holy Spirit to anoint you to expand the Kingdom.

Use His authority to resist Satan.

Pray the will of the King into your circumstances.

## Lesson 4

The Pentateuch, the Psalms, and the Prophets picture God coming as the ultimate King who would rule from Jerusalem.

The Old Testament included a number of aspects involved in the expected Kingdom: the Messiah, the Son of Man, the suffering servant, freedom from all their enemies, the restoration of Israel, the reversal of the curse upon creation, and the Day of the Lord as in the final judgment in which apostate Israel and the nations would be judged.

Scripture Study: Read the fascinating account of Simeon, Anna, and others in Luke 2:25-38. (10 minutes)

What was Simeon's hope and expectation? \_\_\_\_\_

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What was Anna's hope and expectation? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think Anna told others about this child? \_\_\_\_\_

Apparently there was a group of people who were waiting in anticipation for God to break into history with something supernatural and redemptive.

Scripture Study: Read Luke 23:50-51. (5 minutes)

What was Joseph expecting? \_\_\_\_\_

Of what element of society was Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_

What does this suggest about the expectation level in Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

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Prayer Time: (15 - 30 minutes)

Worship Jesus Christ as God's Son!

Pray for God's honor to be restored!

Pray, "Thy Kingdom Come" on earth!

Pray, "Thy will be done" on earth!

## Lesson 5

Jesus clearly portrayed Himself as the Messiah right from the beginning although He made it even clearer as He neared the cross.

As you follow the ministry of Jesus through the Gospels, it is interesting as well as instructive to look for the Satanic opposition.

There is an all out war between the two Kingdoms, the two “houses”, the two peoples. Therefore, it takes a Kingdom minded people dedicated to plundering Satan’s house to move boldly in God’s authority to defeat the devil and expand God’s rule upon the earth.

Scripture Study: Read Luke 4:14-21. *(15 minutes)*

Why do you think Luke wants you to know that Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit?

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When Jesus read Isaiah 61:1-2, what was He actually claiming? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why did Jesus stop reading Isaiah 61 right in the middle of verse 2? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus mean by “gospel” in this context? \_\_\_\_\_

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How does His use of the word, “gospel,” differ from what we usually mean when we speak of preaching the gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

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Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Praise Jesus for being your Messiah!

Read Luke 4:18-19 out loud and worship.

Proclaim Jesus’ authority over Satan as it relates to your life.

Thank God for His rule, His will, and His Kingdom.

## Lesson 6

Part of the proof that Jesus was the Expected One, the Messiah, was that the poor had the gospel preached to them.

The question, of course, is: what gospel, what good news did Jesus preach? He offered Himself as the Messiah, and He offered the Kingdom both now in part and fully in the future.

We want to recover the sense of living now in this Kingdom so that we may do the works which He did and possibly even the greater works which He mentioned.

Scripture Study: Read Luke 4:18 and compare it with Luke 7:22. *(15 minutes)*

How did Jesus' answer to John's disciples offer proof to John that He was indeed the Expected One? \_\_\_\_\_

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When we are asked, "What is the gospel?" what do you think we should answer?

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How might this change your outlook? \_\_\_\_\_

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Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Thank God for His gospel!

Recognize the glory of God now and worship Him!

Submit yourself afresh to His authority.

Actively resist Satan and watch him flee!

## Lesson 7

Jesus refused to stay in one place because He was compelled to take the message of the Kingdom of God to every village in Israel. This was His mission and His theme. For this reason, it seems hard to understand why we today seem so vague and uncertain about what the Kingdom is and our role in it.

At first He taught, proclaimed, and demonstrated the active presence of the Kingdom with His primary twelve beside Him; but He was merely preparing them to go out in teams of two to do the same. In this way He was multiplying Himself from the beginning.

Scripture Study: Read Luke 4:40-44. (*10 minutes*)

Obviously Jesus was healing the sick and casting out demons. Do you think He simply healed and cast out demons or do you think this was directly linked to His preaching the gospel of the Kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you suppose they did not want Him to leave? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did He leave? \_\_\_\_\_

What applications are you seeing for your own life? \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture Study: Read Luke 10:1-11. (*5 minutes*)

Perhaps you are not a “preacher” or perhaps you are not a pastor; yet this sending by Jesus of His disciples has an application for every disciple.

What might “the Lord of the harvest” be saying to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Close your eyes in worshipping Him whom you adore!

Surrender your life for His Kingdom purposes.

Pray His Kingdom will into the people around your life.

Ask the Holy Spirit to send your brothers and sisters to share the message of Kingdom life.

## Lesson 8

The early Church preached differently than the Church today. They preached about the Kingdom of God, and they preached Jesus Christ as the Messiah who brought the Kingdom and died for others as their sin offering. Thus Jesus' life-message about the Kingdom was at the center of everything they did.

Where the Kingdom message is known and lived, there is a greater sense of having authority over demons and a greater confidence in God's power to penetrate cultures and change things.

Kingdom awareness brings the longing for the return of the King to bring the fulfillment of His Kingdom rule on a new earth.

Scripture Study: Read about the Kingdom in Acts 8:12. (*15 minutes*)

What was the content of the "good news" (gospel) that Philip was preaching?

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Read Acts 1:3. During these precious few days, what was Jesus' topic of impartation to His disciples? \_\_\_\_\_

Rather than explain any further in response to their question in Acts 1:6, Jesus simply directed them toward being baptized with the same Holy Spirit Who had anointed and equipped Him to move in Kingdom authority. (Acts 1:8)

Do you see a similar pattern here to the role the Holy Spirit played in Jesus' ministry?

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What are your thoughts about how the early Church understood Jesus' message about the Kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_

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How might we recover this message? What are your ideas? \_\_\_\_\_

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Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Ask Jesus to fill you afresh with the Holy Spirit!

Yield yourself to the Spirit to open your eyes to the Kingdom.

See Kingdom potential where you work and pray it into effect.

Rejoice with God for His authority over all that is demonic!

## Lesson 9

Jesus said, “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” (John 12:24) What was Jesus thinking when He spoke these words? He was seeing the millions of men and women who would be following Him and becoming like Him, having the same vision and passion for bringing the Kingdom on earth!

When He said, “I am the vine, you are the branches” (John 15:5), He was seeing His followers, the Church (the called-out-ones), as multiplying Himself in every work place and every family situation.

Scripture Study: Examine the Kingdom message in the book of Acts. *(15 minutes)*  
Read Acts 14:19-22. Clarification: you enter the Kingdom now when you are regenerated and converted, but here Paul is speaking of entering the Kingdom in its future fulfillment. How does Paul relate their suffering to the message Jesus preached about the Kingdom of God? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Acts 19:8. What was Paul’s message to the people in Ephesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ How long did he stay on this one topic?

Read Acts 20:25. How did Paul describe his ministry to these Elders?  
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Read Acts 28:23. How did Paul’s presentation of the gospel to these Jewish leaders differ from how we often present the gospel today?  
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Read Acts 28:30-31. How do you think Paul connected the message Jesus preached about the Kingdom of God with the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ?  
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Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Visualize Jesus enduring the wrath of God for you!

Worship Him who loves you so!

Cry out, “Thy Kingdom Come! Thy will be done on earth!”

Surrender afresh to His authority.

## Lesson 10

Jesus' teachings were focused on clearing up all the lies and misunderstanding about what God the Father is really like and explaining how His Kingdom operates.

The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) is often considered both the greatest sermon ever preached and the best summary of all that Jesus preached. Jesus spoke of the Father 17 times in this short passage, which was His description of how the Kingdom functioned.

In this sermon, the Kingdom of God (or heaven as the Jews often substituted "heaven" for the word, God) is spoken of in terms of both the present tense and the future tense. This is because the Kingdom is both here in the person and influence of Jesus, and it is also future, because it will come fully when Jesus returns in glory!

Scripture Study: Read Matthew 5:1-20. (*15 minutes*)

In Matthew 4:23-25, we see that large crowds were following Jesus due to both His preaching about the Kingdom and His demonstration of it in casting out demons and healing.

Why do you think Jesus felt that He needed to explain more to His disciples at that time about how this Kingdom actually worked? \_\_\_\_\_

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What does Jesus say about the Kingdom that is clearly present and not just future? Maybe you will want to underline the present and future tense verbs.

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How does Jesus describe the effects His Kingdom people will have upon society?

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Why do you think Jesus said that their righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees?

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Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Read out loud the "Blesseds" which most engage you.

Believe for these "Blesseds" to be imparted to your life.

Pray these "Blesseds" into your extended family.

Ask the Holy Spirit to spread these "Blesseds" to your community.

## Lesson 11

Isn't it interesting that Jesus places the issue of prayer at the center of His sermon on the Kingdom of heaven?

Why we pray, to whom we are really praying, and how we pray are of vital concern to Him.

It is my conviction that right at the heart of Kingdom living is this prayer that has traditionally been called, The Lord's Prayer. It is assumed that Jesus was explaining how He prayed and thus intended for them to discover the effectiveness of praying the same way He did.

Scripture Study: Read Matthew 6:5-15. (*15 minutes*)

Why do you think it was important for Jesus to first explain how not to pray?

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To whom does He direct you to pray? \_\_\_\_\_  
Look at Matthew 5:45. What type of relationship does Jesus envision for you?

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Read Matthew 7:7-11. How does your view of God affect your ability to pray in faith?

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Look at Matthew 6:8. Do you really feel the powerful effect of God being your personal Father who truly knows your needs and deeply cares about meeting them?

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What do you learn about the Kingdom from examining this prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

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Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Come to God as your Father.

Hallow His name by worshipping Him!

Pray for His Kingdom to come on earth.

Submit to God; resist Satan through using your authority in prayer!

## Lesson 12

Your Father God is in heaven; and Jesus wants your heart and identity to belong where God exists in full and open manifestation: i.e. heaven. He wants you to feel the force of being fathered by God in the same way He feels it.

The more real the Kingdom is to you, the more you treasure God; and the more you treasure God the more real is His Kingdom. Then you “see” life God’s way. Jesus calls this, having a clear eye.

Jesus’ warning that you cannot really have two masters is an underlying theme that He repeats over and over. He must think this is a real danger: that people are likely to deceive themselves and think they can sort of have both kingdoms at the same time.

Scripture Study: Read Matthew 6:9 and 19, 21-24. *(15 minutes)*

What is Jesus trying to say to you about God? \_\_\_\_\_

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How do you think praying The Lord’s Prayer will affect your own heart’s ability to treasure God? \_\_\_\_\_

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Rewrite Matthew 6:23 using your own words. \_\_\_\_\_

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What do you see in the Lord’s Prayer that, if ignored, could lead to having a “bad eye”?

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Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Ask God to supply your financial needs.

Let God examine your heart concerning having forgiven others.

Pray in faith that God will have you conquer temptation.

Trust God to powerfully set you free from everything evil Satan plans to use against you.

## Lesson 13

Worry is probably the most telltale sign that you are not seeing God the way Jesus does.

Jesus' major presupposition is: "Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." (Matthew 6:8) And to this He adds (1) if you really see Him as He is, then you will treasure Him, with the result that your eye will be clear, and (2) if God is so lavish with birds and flowers, don't you realize how faithful He will be to supply you?

The Kingdom of God is centered on the person of Jesus as He reveals the truth about God the Father! Worry violates the Kingdom, because it reveals a lack of faith in the King.

Scripture Study: Read Matthew 6:25-34. (*15 minutes*)

Matthew 6:25 begins with, "For this reason." What do you think Jesus' reason is for your not giving in to the sin of worry? Look back a few verses. \_\_\_\_\_

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Explain how Jesus' examples support the reason He can command you not to worry.

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Why does Jesus attribute our worry to a lack of faith? \_\_\_\_\_

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Rewrite Matthew 6:32 using your own words: \_\_\_\_\_

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Rewrite Matthew 6:33 using your own words, but put it into the negative: e.g. "If you don't put My Kingdom ahead of everything else... \_\_\_\_\_

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Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Give God your heart this morning.

Worship Him for His goodness and faithfulness to meet your needs!

Thank Him for all that He has supplied you.

Pray, "Thy Kingdom Come," into your life situations.

## Lesson 14

Putting the Kingdom of God first in your life is God's provision for prioritizing and ruling your life. He intends to supply you with all that you need in your marriage, in training your children, in having a godly and successful career, and in your physical health; but in order to meet your needs, His Kingdom must be your first priority.

The "What" of life is: Seek first My Kingdom. The "How" of life is: Pray, "Thy Kingdom Come."

Scripture Study: Now that you have studied Matthew 6:5-34 in sections, reread the entire passage in order to grasp the overall message of Jesus to you.

*(15 minutes)*

Why do you think Jesus arranged the order of The Lord's Prayer the way He did?

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Why do you think Jesus is so focused upon how you see God the Father?

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How do you think that putting the Kingdom first in your life will change things for you?

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Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Draw close to your heavenly Father this morning.

Let Him minister to you.

Be still and bask in His company.

Find your refuge in Him who sent His Son to you.

## Lesson 15

At what point did Jesus begin to send out His disciples to proclaim and demonstrate the Kingdom just as He had been doing? We don't really know, of course, but we do know that this was a transition that brought great joy and pleasure to Jesus!

There is a war going on. It started in heaven, and this war has been brought to the earth! This Man of peace came to bring a "sword of division" because there is no neutral ground. In a war the safest thing to do is to be armed and overcome evil with good: i.e. go on the offense.

Jesus sends you out to take His Kingdom wherever He sends you: into your work place, into your family, even into your recreation.

Scripture Study: Read Luke 10:1-24. (*15 minutes*)

Proclaiming can be a quiet sharing in ways that are appropriate to the situation. How might you impart "peace," "shalom," God's blessing of peace into situations where it is lacking?

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How might you express interest in others that God could use to open opportunities to pray with people? \_\_\_\_\_

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In the book of Acts you find the disciples praying for boldness, so we know that sometimes we can feel intimidated. How does Jesus prepare His disciples to press forward even though, at times, they may find their offers of faith and love rejected?

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Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Pour out your heart to your Savior this morning.

Let Him comfort you.

Ask the Holy Spirit to anoint you with increasing boldness.

Pray for the Kingdom to come where God is sending you.

## Lesson 16

Jesus was thrilled to see His group of 70 disciples return from doing exactly what He had been doing: announcing the presence of God's Kingdom here in operation along with the demonstration of it by casting out demons and healing the sick!

Don't you wish you could have watched Him rejoice? Well, He does rejoice over you and over all of us who are His disciples as we also bring His Kingdom realm where we live and work! He loves it when we actually cast out a demon or lay hands on someone who is sick where we work or live.

Scripture Study: Read again Luke 10:1-24. What a passage! (*15 minutes*)

Rewrite Luke 10:16 using your own words. I suggest you add some words so as to include what it is like when Jesus sends you to work, sends you home, etc.

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How might Jesus use you to extend His Kingdom where you work and live even though you might not go as a preacher?

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Compare Luke 10:19 with Matthew 28:18. Has Jesus given you this type of authority?

Read 1 John 4:4b. How could you use this authority? \_\_\_\_\_

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Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Raise your hands and worship the King of the Kingdom!

Thank Him for giving you a place in His heart.

Ask forgiveness for any sin that is spoiling your delight in God.

Submit now to God and resist the devil! (James 4:7)

## Lesson 17

Jesus has given you His peace to strengthen you inside; but He places you in situations that need your ability to impart His peace and to use Kingdom authority. Sometimes you will feel like a defenseless lamb with enemies all around, but the question is: what will be your testimony about Jesus when you feel that way?

When you seek first His Kingdom, it places you on the offense. You are an appointed agent of His Kingdom. You don't just go to work; He sends you. As you put His Kingdom first, you will experience more faith and boldness and you will have more fun!

Scripture Study: Keep reading the great passage in Luke 10:1-24. *(15 minutes)*

After looking over this passage, write a little letter from Jesus to yourself based on what He said to the group of 70 disciples. Start with your name: Dear \_\_\_\_\_, I (Jesus) want to say, \_\_\_\_\_

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Meditate on Luke 10:21 for a few moments. What does this verse say to you?

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Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Tell the Lord that you accept His appointing you to represent His Kingdom.

Worship Him as the One who is sending you.

Pray for His Kingdom to come where you live and work.

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you so you can be sensitive to the Kingdom.

## Lesson 18

You are not called to a passive lifestyle. You are called to follow a Savior who is going somewhere, fighting someone, and bringing glory to Someone else!

He not only wants you to put His Kingdom first in your everyday life; He tells you to actively seek His Kingdom! He means for you to go for it!

The seeking, desiring, pursuing, and praying for His Kingdom to be advanced puts the devil off balance and on the defensive. Good deal.

Scripture Study: Have you memorized Matthew 6:33? Try it. (*5 minutes*)

Write out this verse using your own words. \_\_\_\_\_

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Scripture Study: A better translation of Matthew 11:12 is: “From the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of heaven has exercised itself violently and violent or forceful men take it by force.” (*5 minutes*)

What do you think Jesus is saying to you in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

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Scripture Study: Read Matthew 12:28-30. (*5 minutes*)

What might Jesus be saying to you through this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

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Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Praise Jesus Christ as the One who bound and defeated Satan!

Just worship the Messiah for His glory and beauty!

Declare His Kingdom rule over your own life.

Pray His will into your circumstances.

## Lesson 19

The phrase, “son of man” occurs 195 times in Scripture, but not always referring to Christ. Sometimes it merely refers to the sons of Adam; but overwhelmingly it refers to Jesus the Messiah who constantly referred to Himself as “the Son of Man”!

Now, think about this and be amazed! Shocked! Awed! Finally, a man has come who can, will, does face the enemy and withstands him and conquers him...for us...our champion!

He is really a man. He is really also God, but He called Himself, the Son of Man. Here is mystery, and here is love, and here is deliverance: the Messiah became a man. For me. For you.

Scripture Study: Check out the Son of Man statements made by Jesus just in Matthew. (15 minutes)

Matthew 9:6 - The Son of Man has \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 11:19 - What do they say about the Son of Man? \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 12:8 - What do you think this means? \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 13:37 - What is Jesus' point? \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 13:41 - How powerful is this Son of Man? \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 16:27 - Again, what do you see here? \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 16:28 - What did these three disciples see? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Why do you think Jesus considered this as actually seeing the Kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 25:31 - When the King returns, apparently He will return in what capacity?

\_\_\_\_\_ What might that mean for us? \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Time: (15 – 30 minutes)

Bow reverently before Jesus Christ as The Son of Man.

Wait quietly before Him.

Confess Him as the coming King!

Pray, “Thy Kingdom come.”

## Lesson 20

Jesus identifies Himself as The Son of Man in at least three different ways. First, He has authority to do the things that only God can exercise and delegate.

It is as the Son of Man that Jesus anticipates His rejection and approaching suffering.

His future return is always described in terms of the Son of Man coming with His angels in His glory to execute the final judgment.

Scripture Study: Look at all three categories in Mark's gospel. *(15 minutes)*

The authority of the Son of Man: read Mark 2:10, 28. What authority does Jesus claim?

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His future suffering: read Mark 8:31; 9:9, 12, 31; 10:33, 45; 14:21, 41. Why do you think Jesus referred to Himself in regard to the suffering as the Son of Man?

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His future coming: Mark 8:38; 13:26; 14:62. What do you think we will see when He returns? \_\_\_\_\_

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Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Ask Jesus to fill you afresh with the Holy Spirit.

Raise your hands to honor and worship the Christ!

Thank Jesus for representing you as the Son of Man!

Pray for His Kingdom to come on earth.

## Lesson 21

Jesus preached the Kingdom. Then He sent the 12. Then He sent the 70. Then He sent you and me. (John 20:21)

We aren't sent to burst into our work place preaching, but rather we are sent by Jesus to proclaim the Kingdom by loving, serving, and caring in ways that announce the presence of His rule!

We don't go to "our home towns" as prophets but as servants. We impart peace. We pray. We notice people's needs. We do good work, because we are God's missionaries. Somebody pays for us to be missionaries to our work places and neighborhoods.

Read Matthew 5:13-16. (*5 minutes*)

How might the "salt" and "light" images help you "announce" the Kingdom of God?

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Read Matthew 7:13-21. (*5 minutes*)

What do you think Jesus means by bearing fruit? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read Matthew 10:40-42. (*5 minutes*)

Explain what you think Jesus means here.

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Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Get still and "gaze" upon your Savior.

Express your love back to Him.

Receive Him as your sufficiency.

Pray for His rule to come around you.

## Lesson 22

God is Spirit. Jesus' words are Spirit and life. Jesus was always doing only what He "saw" His Father doing. These facts begin to make it clear that God's Kingdom is His rule, His authority expressed in the realm of the spiritual dimension.

Therefore, it becomes increasingly important for you as a Kingdom person to be filled with the Spirit of God not just once but every day.

Should you lose your eyesight or hearing, you would feel the limitations placed on your ability to operate freely in the world around you. When we are not staying in tune with the Spirit, we begin to lose our ability to perceive the presence of the Kingdom.

Scripture Study: Read Acts 1:6-8. (*10 minutes*)

Why do you think Jesus refused to answer the disciples' question? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think Jesus wanted to move them into an encounter with the Holy Spirit?

What do you think is the connection between power and the Holy Spirit as it applies to your own life? \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture Meditation: Read and reflect upon John 7:37-39. (*5 minutes*)

Put some of your impressions on paper. \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Come to Him who loves you this morning.

Ask Jesus to fill you afresh with the Holy Spirit.

Rest in Him.

Pray His Kingdom into your life circumstances.

## Lesson 23

Parables have a strange effect upon people. So says Jesus. Either the parables open our eyes and understanding to Kingdom dynamics, or they cause our hearts to glaze over with a spiritual fog or dullness that anesthetizes us. In other words, they reveal or veil. They reveal the condition of the heart.

Perhaps you wonder how this can be. A parable is such a simple illustration that you cannot fail to understand it at one level. So, a person may easily assume that he “got it” when, in fact, he didn’t. Probably you have had such an experience yourself.

You must apply yourself to understand.

Scripture Study: Read Matthew 12:48-50 and then Matthew 13:9-18. *(15 minutes)*

In Matthew 12:48-50, what is Jesus’ point? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you think the grace of God produces obedience in God’s Kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_

In Matthew 13:9, why do you think I would ask you to begin with this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think the disciples would even ask this question? \_\_\_\_\_

As you read Jesus’ answer, what do you think He is saying to you? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your response? \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Submit your ears to Jesus.

Ask Him to fill you with the Holy Spirit.

Apply to God to teach you the ways of His Kingdom realm.

Pray for His Kingdom authority to rule in your life.

## Lesson 24

The parable of the sower and the parable of the tares are obviously connected. Jesus is warning those who are having the privilege of actually listening to the Messiah that they will be responsible for having been given this incredible opportunity to sell out to the eternal Kingdom.

The first parable describes the dangerous attitudes of the heart that may keep a man from responding to Jesus' offer of the Kingdom; the second parable describes the external dangers of letting the bad seed of the devil take root in the heart rather than the good seed.

Scripture Study: Read Matthew 13:18-30. *(15 minutes)*

Describe your own experience with the four different heart attitudes that are depicted by the different soils. \_\_\_\_\_

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What two activities are attributed to the devil in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

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Write a short note from Jesus to yourself. "(Your name) \_\_\_\_\_, I (Jesus)

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Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Thank the Lord Christ for the blessing of being able to hear His words.

Acknowledge that His Kingdom is your first priority.

Ask the Holy Spirit to anoint you to sow the good seed alongside Jesus.

Ask God for an increase of boldness in spreading the Kingdom.

## Lesson 25

God is abundant, lavish, generous; and He loves to multiply good things as in “pressed down, running over.” It’s His nature to bless this way.

Evil is rampant, but watch Him amaze not only the demons but also the angels as He multiplies Himself.

At the end of Matthew’s gospel is recorded the ordination that commissions you and me to go forth into our daily activities as disciples who have authority to make disciples and change people.

Scripture Study: Read Matthew 28:18-20. *(15 minutes)*

How are you relating to Jesus’ authority? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In what ways are you under authority? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you think that you are relating easily and properly to authority in such a way that God can freely exercise His authority through you? Comment.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How are you using the authority Jesus has given you to accomplish His purposes?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Surrender anew to God’s authority over your life.

Confess His goodness and faithfulness to you.

Ask the Holy Spirit to anoint your ears to listen.

Pray His authority into the situations surrounding your life.

## Lesson 26

God wants to be with you. Isn't that incredible? Jesus' title, Immanuel, (God with us) says this. He made you to be His special child and to be alongside Him in His purposes and passions. Wonderful.

When Jesus commissioned you He said, "Lo, I am with you always." Have you really taken His words here to heart? If not, listen and take them as His heart reaching for your heart.

It is in following Him and taking up His great cause of bringing in His Kingdom and helping others to experience His rule that causes you to feel His presence, His company.

Scripture Memory: Why not begin to memorize Matthew 28:18-20. (*15 minutes*)

Read this passage over and begin to look away and try to say it aloud.

How might Matthew 28:19 be applied to your life? \_\_\_\_\_

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As you consider Matthew 28:20, are you experiencing Jesus as your Teacher currently?

\_\_\_\_\_ If so, how? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ Do you see yourself as His student?  
\_\_\_\_\_ If not, tell Him you are signing up for student status today.

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Prayer Time: (*15 – 30 minutes*)

Come this morning to your Teacher.

Be still. Submit. Listen.

Pray-read Matthew 28:18-20.

Listen.

## Lesson 27

You are one who is following Jesus Christ. It is His responsibility to lead you; it is your part to stay alert and actively follow Him into your day.

You are His disciple. He is teaching you. He prays for you so that your faith will survive Satan's various tricks to reduce your ability to aggressively trust God in every situation.

As your identity becomes secured that you are His student and that He is your Teacher, life becomes so much more exciting. Not only does He teach you: you are growing and changing; in addition, you are being used by Him to help others.

Scripture Memory: Read Matthew 28:18-20 slowly and continue to store it in your memory bank. *(15 minutes)*

What is He teaching you about authority? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is He teaching you about being sent to make disciples? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who can you influence in ways that might help him/her receive from the Lord for themselves? \_\_\_\_\_

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Have you ever felt God's heart concern for a nation? \_\_\_\_\_ Would you like to? \_\_\_\_\_ I bet He would like to share this experience with you as His special child. In Matthew 28:20, what is your responsibility in this teaching-learning process?

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Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Thank God for giving you His mission in life.

Ask God for opportunities to bring Kingdom influence to some.

Worship Him as the Authority over your work place.

Declare His victory over Satan in every area of your life!

## Lesson 28

Jesus' opening line, "Repent (be changing your mind), for the Kingdom of God is at hand," remains as a theme in your life. Day by day He is teaching you more about the value and effectiveness of living in His Kingdom.

He is always improving your attitudes. He is showing you more and more of Himself, thus helping you to trust Him in all the tests of life.

His Kingdom is defining who you are. Your identity is becoming secure, because you are one whom the great Shepherd came to personally seek and save. You are His, and He is yours. This is Kingdom life; and it is only going to get infinitely better, because He is coming back!

Scripture Study: Read the Kingdom values of Matthew 5:3-12. *(15 minutes)*

Begin to slowly memorize this passage, because these truths will change your mind and constantly upgrade your ability to operate freely in the Kingdom.

So, read a verse slowly and then look away and try to say it aloud. Just take it slowly; and let it sink into your soul.

Now, write down any thoughts or impressions that have come as you have given Jesus' words more room inside your mind. \_\_\_\_\_

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Prayer Time: *(15 – 30 minutes)*

Ask God to renew your mind.

Thank Him for giving you His truth to set you free.

Ask God to glorify Himself by opening people's eyes to Jesus.

Pray for God to send your brothers and sisters out today to spread the Kingdom.