



HEAVEN IN SPAIN

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Church and the Kingdom

Session nine – Advancing the kingdom



Three growth principles of the Kingdom

- **Starts small, but grows - Matthew 13:31-32** - "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."
- **It always positively influences - Mathew 13:33** - "Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."
- **It has a life of its own - Mark 4:26-29** - And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."



The seed of the Kingdom has varying effect

Matthew 13:18-23

- “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

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Populating the Kingdom

- **Invite everybody - Matthew 22:9-10 (Parable of the wedding feast)** - “Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.”
- **Draw in many, the good and bad will be separated- Matt 13:47-48** - “The kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.” (Also the wheat and the tares - Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)
- **Taken away and given to another – Matthew 21:43 (parable of the wicked vinedresser)** - “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation (ethnos, people group) bearing the fruits of it.”

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Appropriating the kingdom through prayer Matt 6:5-13

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- In this manner, therefore, pray:
- Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
- Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.
- Give us this day our daily bread.
- And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.
- And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.
- For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen



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- **Our** – *He responds to prayer with everyone in mind*
- **Father** – *This is the relationship He wants us to pray from*
- **In heaven** – *This is His natural state and His desire for us*
- **Hallowed be Your name.** – *Who He is*
- *(The preceding four things put us in the right mindset for prayer)*
- **Your kingdom come** – *His and our mission*
- **Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.** – *to achieve His mission*
- **Give us this day our daily bread.** – *Provision, daily, us*
- **And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.** – *righteousness and community, us*
- **And do not lead us into temptation** – *It is avoidable (It was fresh in His mind – Matt 4), us*
- **But deliver us from the evil one.** – *or "evil", us*
- **For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen** – *Leaves our requests with Him and our confidence in Him*



Appropriating the kingdom through prayer

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- **Thine is the kingdom - all authority**
- Matt 28:18-19 - If all authority belongs to Jesus, we must submit to him.
- **Thine is the power - all victory**
- Christ conquered Satan as author of sin (2 Cor 5:21); sickness (Is 53:4); death (Heb 2:14-15), as ruler of world (Rev 11:15); universal dominion in heaven, earth & under earth ((Phil 2:11)
- **Thine is the glory - all honour**
- There is inherent in the character of God such splendor, glory, greatness, justice, love, generosity - that it demands our deepest adoration & gratitude.



Appropriating the kingdom through prayer

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- **Martin Luther: Prayer is the most important thing in my life. If I should neglect prayer for a single day I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith.**
- **Spurgeon: Prayer pulls the rope below & the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell for they pray so languidly; others give an occasional pluck at the rope; but he who wins heaven is the man who grabs the rope boldly & pulls continuously with all his might.**



Appropriating the kingdom through influence

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- **Matthew 13:37-38** - "He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.
- **Earlier in Matthew 13:19** "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside
- Jesus became the word of the kingdom and now we are the word of the kingdom bringing the kingdom
- "Son of" refers to a person's dominant quality (e.g. son of encouragement, son of perdition)



Appropriating the kingdom through influence Matthew 5

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- **Verse 13** "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.
- **Verse 14 – 16** "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- **Both**
 - *Influential and unseen*
 - *Attractive and seen*



Do not unnecessarily offend

• **Matthew 17:24-27**

- When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the *temple* tax came to Peter and said, "Does your Teacher not pay the *temple* tax?" He said, "Yes." And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?" Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. Nevertheless, **lest we offend them**, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you."

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Appropriating the kingdom through the supernatural

• **Matthew 10:7-8**

- "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

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Appropriating the kingdom through message

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- **Luke 8:1** - Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God.
- **The word "gospel" means "good news", or "glad tidings"**
- **Luke 16:16** - The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.
- **Matthew 11:12** - And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.
- **Acts 8:12** - But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.
- **Acts 19:8** - And he (Paul) went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.



Appropriating the kingdom through message Old and new treasure

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- **Matthew 13:52**
- Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."
- Both new and revelation is important – For the church, preaching and the world
- There is always old treasure (revelation you already have) and new treasure (fresh revelation)



Binding and loosing in the kingdom

- **Matthew 16:19**
- “And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
- **Prohibiting or permitting certain actions**

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The church and the kingdom

- **Matthew 16:18-19**
- ¹⁸And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
- **The church is here to appropriate the kingdom of heaven**

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The Church and the Kingdom

- Church is not the kingdom
- Church witnesses to the kingdom
- Church has keys to the kingdom
- Church appropriates the kingdom
- Without the kingdom the church is irrelevant

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The Church helping people to enter the kingdom

- Message
 - Near, in you and offered to all
- Help people
 - to be born again
 - To be righteous
 - To be obedient
 - With financial lordship
- Examine
 - How it's religious practices are shutting people out

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The Church helping people to be blessed in the kingdom

- Humility
- Child likeness
- Endure suffering
- Teach others
- Priorities
- Behaviour
- Diligence
- Supernatural
- Seed
- Growth
- Old and new treasure
- Binding and loosing

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The functions of the church in building the kingdom

- As a spiritual building
 - Helps people to be born again
 - Helps people to be righteous
- As a family
 - Helps people with humility
 - Helps people with child likeness
- As a body
 - Helps people to teach others
 - Helps people to use their seed
 - Helps people with new and old treasure

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The functions of the church in building the kingdom

- As a household
 - Helps people with priorities
 - Helps people with behaviour
 - Helps people with diligence
- As a bride
 - Helps people with obedience
 - Helps people with financial lordship
- As a gate
 - Brings the message of the kingdom
 - Brings the supernatural
 - Helps people to bind and loose

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An image of the church appropriating the kingdom

- **Luke 8:1-3**
- Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve *were* with Him, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons,³ and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.

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An image of the church appropriating the kingdom

- To every place, large and small
- Preaching
- Good news of the kingdom
- With Jesus
- With each other
- Healing
- Casting out demons
- People from all parts of society
- Many people
- Giving

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