

What is the Kingdom?

LISTEN TO THE WHAT IS THE KINGDOM VIDEO HERE.

To understand God's Kingdom we must understand His Son, and to understand His Son we must understand how the Father has revealed Himself. God has chosen to communicate with mankind through everything in nature, through our universal need to believe, through His chosen people (the Jews), and most specifically through His Son Jesus Christ.

The world exists for one purpose: to display the glory of God. Mankind exists for one purpose: to carry the image of our Creator and to glorify Him.

When we begin to ask the question: "How am I to find meaning for my existence?" our search for significance often results in men and women being made right before God. This is the essence of the Kingdom.

We are destined to eternal separation from our Creator. The Kingdom is God's ancient choice to buy back men's souls through paying a huge price. This effort would cost Him His dearest possession - His only Son would need to die.

As this diagram explains, when we experience life and honestly ask the question "who am I?" - we stand at the door of the Kingdom. The God Story explains that the answer to this question revolves completely around the identifying of the King of the earth.

And if there IS a King over the earth, what does His Kingdom look like? This in turn deeply answers the first question of Who am I. I have become a Friend of the King of the earth.

Once we open the conversation about the meaning of our existence (Who Am I?) we may then consider the question "Who is the King?" This is where the Jesus story of the Gospels comes in. In the prophecies and miracles we see unparalleled authority entering human history. Once we have engaged "who is the King?" we then began to ask the question "what is His Kingdom?" The Gospels clearly answer this question with Christ's own words about Himself. We then are able to grasp the friendship God has extended us by offering us life in His Son. And this allows us to be free to return to the question "Who am I?" with a whole new set of presuppositions, not the least of which is where we will spend eternity.

Who has the King chosen to be His friends? Why?

Matthew: the King & His Kingdom



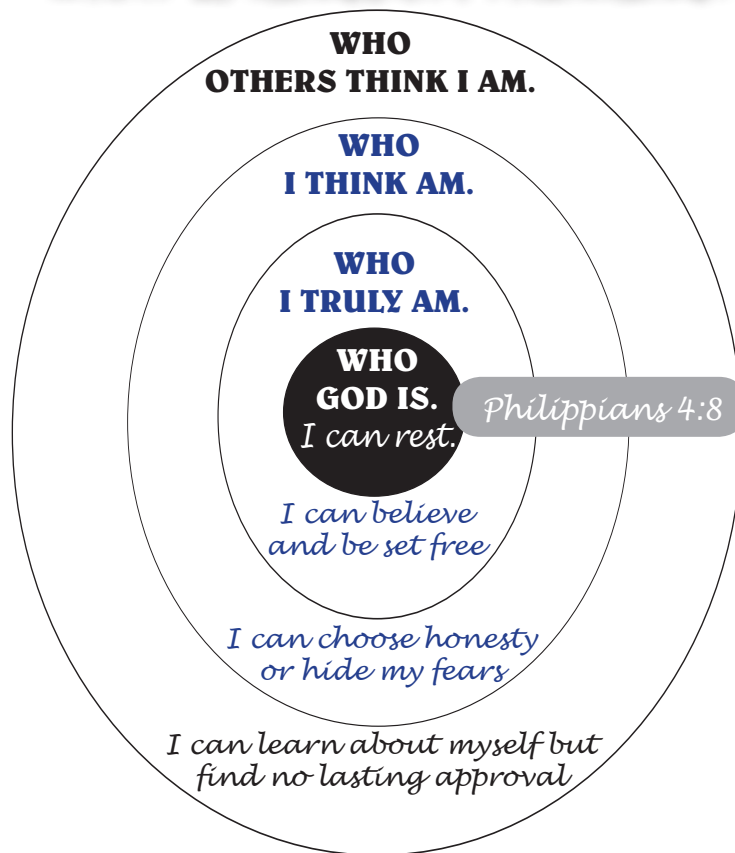
A Kingdom Heart requires a Kingdom Shift

How do we engage the Kingdom?

The Kingdom is very real. Jesus went to great lengths to articulate this transcendent spiritual reality. Though linked closely with our natural lives, it is very distinct from what we can merely see. It is in this “unseen realm” where we encounter God. This is the arena of Kingdom faith.

Jesus’ disciples experienced a life-changing transition as they began to see this difference. Once they understood that Jesus’ Kingdom was “not of this world” they began to prepare themselves to let go of the seen and exchange it for what is unseen. **This is the realm of the heart. Jesus saves the soul by saving the heart.** The work of the Kingdom is literally to believe the One whom the Father has sent. This diagram describes the core of a Kingdom paradigm: inside - out.

WHAT IS KINGDOM THINKING?



Notice the core of the circles above. The more attention we give to our “exterior lives” the more we have a propensity to neglect our “interior lives.” This is a huge mistake, for within our interior lives is where **transformation** occurs. As we are transformed we become more than we can be as a mere religious person. Jesus came to rescue lost sheep, release us from captivity, and set us free. This turns our interior lives upside down and offers peace, joy, and a love beyond what we can dream. This opens the door for us to become the “salt” and “light” our world so desperately needs!

What are your thoughts about your interior and exterior life?
