

INTRODUCTION

- * Jesus began His ministry by declaring that the Kingdom of God had drawn near. As a result, people were going to need to change the way they thought.
- * We have seen that Kingdom awareness and Kingdom teaching has been an important part of Jesus' interaction with His disciples and with the crowds.
- * As He is making His final trip to Jerusalem, Jesus begins to prepare the people for life after His presence on the earth. He begins to teach them more regarding the Kingdom of God. Jesus will be referring to, and teaching regarding, the Kingdom of God much in the next 11 chapters. He will reference the Kingdom of God 19 times in 18 verses in that span. Today, we will be considering four of those occurrences.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE G_____ OF THE KINGDOM (v. 18-21)****A. It is Analogous to a M_____**

1. IT STARTS OUT A TINY SEED
2. IT ENDS UP A LARGE TREE

B. It is Analogous to L_____

1. THE DECLARATION: IT PERMEATES THE WHOLE D_____
2. THE APPLICATION: IT PERMEATES THE WHOLE W_____ (cf. Matthew 24:14)

II. THE G_____ OF THE KINGDOM (v. 22-27; Matthew 7:13-14)**A. The Entrance to the Kingdom is N_____ (v. 24)**

1. IT REQUIRES YOU TO HAVE FAITH IN JESUS (cf. John 10:7-9; 14:6; 8:24; 3:36)
2. IT REQUIRES YOU TO AGONIZE AND CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK!
 - * cf. Matthew 3:1-2; 4:17
 - * cf. John 6:27; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Colossians 1:29; Hebrews 4:11; 2 Peter 1:10

B. The Entrance to the Kingdom is L_____ (v. 25-27; cf. Genesis 7:16; Matthew 25:1-13)**III. THE G_____ OF THE KINGDOM (v. 28-35)****A. The R_____ ...**

1. OF THE PATRIARCHS (v. 28)
2. OF THE BELIEVERS IN CHRIST (v. 29-30; Genesis 12:1-3; 28:12-14; Romans 4:13; Galatians 3:7-9; Matt 8:10-12)

B. The R_____ ...

1. OF THE _____ BY THE _____ (v. 25-28; Matt 7:21-23)
2. OF THE _____ BY THE _____ (v. 34-35; John 1:11-12)

INTROSPECTION

- * What are you trusting in to enter the Kingdom?
- * Are you waiting to make that decision later? Will you be weeping?
- * What part are you playing in the expansion of God's Kingdom?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * What affect does understanding the entrance to the Kingdom of God have upon our evangelistic efforts?