

Living In The Kingdom

Study Notes by Franklin

The Kingdom of heaven is like a **treasure** hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and **sells all that he has and buys that field.** Matthew 13:44

Again, the Kingdom of heaven is like a merchant **seeking** fine pearls, and upon **finding one pearl of great value**, he went and **sold all that he had and bought it.** Matthew 13:45-46

JESUS is telling us that the Kingdom of God is **extremely valuable**, found only by seeking, and wise is the person who **recognizes it's value** and is **willing to give up all else to obtain it.**

And if we will **seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness** all that is necessary and needed for life **will be added to you.** Matthew 6:33

It is a matter of what you **love**. It is a matter of what is **valuable** to you. It is a matter of what you really **desire**. It is a matter of **priorities!**

- What value do you place on the Kingdom of God?
- By the way you live your life, what is the value of the Kingdom?

The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed . . . for behold, the **kingdom of God is within you.** Luke 17:20-21

- It is the realm where the KING is accepted, honored and obeyed.

And when the LORD JESUS CHRIST is loved, accepted, honored and obeyed His Kingdom becomes:

the foundation of your life ---- the central object of authority
the directing force and the motivating power for all that you want and all that you do.

For the KING has come that we might have LIFE and have it ABUNDANTLY.

So what kingdom we abide in, is a matter of: WHO & WHAT YOU LOVE – who & what you DESIRE MOST, that determines what kingdom you abide in.

As Jesus said:

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. John 14:15

1 John 2:15-16 **Do not love the world or the things in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

Romans 14:17 The **Kingdom of God** is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness** and **peace** and **joy** in the Holy Spirit.

- The believer lives and abides in the Kingdom of God by Righteousness (right living – obeying the King) which results in: Peace and Joy.

Psalm 15 O LORD, **who may abide in Your tent?** Who may dwell on Your holy hill? He who walks with **integrity** and does what is **right** and speaks **truth** from his heart. He **does not slander** with his tongue, **nor does evil** to his neighbor, nor takes up a **criticism** against his friend. In whose eyes a **reprobate is despised**, but who **honors** those who fear the LORD; He **keeps his promise even to his own hurt** and **does not change**; He does not lend his money at interest, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken.

Psalm 97:2 **Righteousness** and **justice** are the foundation of His throne

- The **kingdoms of this world** are under the authority of and belong to the prince of this world (Ephesians 2:2-3; Luke 4:5-8)
- As the **devil** tempted our LORD JESUS so **he tempts us** to live by the principals of the kingdoms of this world. And he finds many takers.
- Which kingdom you live in is determined by which kingdom laws or principals you accept and live by. **The choice is up to YOU.**
 - Luke 6:46 **Why do you call Me, Lord, Lord, and not do what I say?**
 - Matthew 6:24 **No one can serve two masters . . .**

Concerning these two kingdoms, Jesus described it this way: The gate is **wide** and the way is **broad** that leads to **DESTRUCTION**, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is **small** and the way is **narrow** that leads to **LIFE**, and there are **few who find it.** Matthew 7:13-14

Two paths - two ways of living - two destinations

You cannot expect the fruit, the blessings, of one kingdom while living by the ways of another.

The vast majority are living in the kingdom of this world, under it's authority and by it's ways. The "wide gate" accepts everyone from atheists, agnostics, and all religions, and the "broad way" allows a freedom to pursue and do your own thing.

- Luke 9:24 **If you try to live your life for yourself, you will lose it.**

And there is a few who are willing to enter by the "narrow way" and pursue the KING and His Kingdom.

- Luke 9:24 **If you give up your life for me, you will find true life.** NLT

Two Paths

Parents that live a mediocre lukewarm religious life with one foot in the Kingdom of God and one foot in the world often see their children's commitment to the Lord turn cold.

I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, I will spit you out of my mouth! Revelation 3:15-16 NLT

The result of lukewarm parents is: Matthew 24 NLT

(3) the disciples said, "Tell us, . . . what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" . . . (4) Jesus answered and said to them, . . . (12) **Sin** will be **rampant** everywhere, and the **love of many** will grow **cold**.

As their love for the world and it's ways heat up.

Many are bringing problems, hurts and pain into their life by following the crowd through the "**wide gate**" and accepting or choosing the "**broad way**" of the world. Perhaps having what they consider "**fun**" along the way and not realizing that it "**leads to destruction.**"

- We all have hurts, pains and scars and even more serious damage from living by the world's ways as we choose the broad easy way.

Every generation needs **leaders** who will chose and lead others in the “**narrow way that leads to life**” as did **Moses** who, **refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter**, (accepting a noble place in the world's system) **choosing** rather to **endure ill-treatment** with the people of God than to enjoy the **passing** pleasures of sin. Hebrews 11:24-25

Moses and the people of the LORD were living in Egypt - a type of the kingdom of this world. Under the authority of Pharaoh - a type of satan.

- All of us have lived in, lived by, and are thoroughly versed in the ways and means of the world's kingdom.
- We naturally and comfortably operate in the world's ways as we were born and grew up in it and are well trained in its ways. It is in our DNA

The LORD delivered them by His mighty power and led them to **freedom** by His servant Moses who **qualified** to be a leader by his **choices** as seen in the above verse.

- The LORD is looking for such leaders today. He is looking at YOU.

He led them in a “narrow way” to their destination – the **Promised Land** which is a **type** of the **Kingdom of God** an **exceedingly good** land. **If the LORD is pleased with us**, then He will bring us into this land and **give it to us**, a land which flows with **milk and honey**. Only **do not rebel** against the LORD; and **do not fear the people of the land**, for they will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us.

Numbers 14:7-9

Exodus 23:20-33 Behold, **I am** going to send an angel before you **to guard you** along the way and **to bring you** into the place which **I** have prepared. (21) Be on your guard before him and **obey** his voice; do not be **rebellious** toward him, for he will not pardon your transgression, since My name is in him. (22) But if you truly **obey** his voice and **do all** that I say, then **I will** be **an enemy** to your enemies and an **adversary** to your adversaries. (23) For **My angel** will go before you and **bring you in to the land** of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; [a type of principalities & powers of darkness] and **I will** completely destroy them. (24) You **SHALL NOT WORSHIP THEIR GODS, NOR SERVE THEM**, nor do **according to their deeds**; but **YOU SHALL UTTERLY OVERTHROW THEM** and break their sacred pillars in pieces. (25) But **you shall serve the LORD your God**, and **He will bless** your bread and your water; and **I will** remove sickness from your midst. (26) There shall be no one miscarrying or barren in your land; **I will** fulfill the number of your days. (27) **I will** send My terror ahead of you, and throw into

confusion all the people among whom you come, and **I will** make all your enemies turn their backs to you. (28) **I will** send hornets ahead of you so that they will drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites before you. (30) **I will** drive them out before you little by little, until you become **fruitful** and **take possession of the land**. (31) **I will** fix your boundary . . . for **I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand**, and **you will drive them out before you**. (32) **YOU SHALL MAKE NO COVENANT WITH THEM OR WITH THEIR GODS**.

(33) THEY SHALL NOT LIVE IN YOUR LAND, BECAUSE THEY WILL MAKE YOU SIN AGAINST ME; FOR IF YOU SERVE THEIR GODS, IT WILL SURELY BE A SNARE TO YOU. (1Tim.3:7;6:9; 2Tim.2:26)

The Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and the Jebusites are a type of principalities & powers of darkness but also immoral, sinful cultures like Sodom and Gomorrah that had gone so far the LORD had given them up and was not going to allow their perverse evil to continue & spread to others

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 **DO NOT BE BOUND TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS** for what partnership have **righteousness and lawlessness**, or what fellowship has **light with darkness**? (15) Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? (16) Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For **we are the temple of the living God**; just as God said, "**I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their GOD, and they shall be MY people**. (17) Therefore, **COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE**, says the Lord. And do not touch what is unclean; and **I will** welcome you. (18) And **I will** be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty.

The Narrow Gate:

Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things **will be added to you**. Matt 6:33

The Wide Gate – disobedience & rebellion:

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 For I do not want you to be unaware . . . our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; (2) and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; (3) and all ate the same spiritual food; (4) and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. (5) Nevertheless, **with most of them God was not well-pleased**; for they were **laid low** in the wilderness. (sin unto death – physical death)

(6) Now these things happened as **examples for us**, so that we **would not crave evil things** as they craved. (7) Do not be **idolaters**, as some of them were; as it is written, "the people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play." (they were hedonists, they worshipped and pursued pleasure) (8) Nor let us act **immorally**, as some of them did, and **twenty-three thousand fell** in one day. (9) Nor let us **try** the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. (Numbers 21:5-7) (10) Nor **grumble**, as some of them did, and were **destroyed** by the destroyer. (11) Now these things happened to them as **an example**, and they **were written for our instruction**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. (12) Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

After all the above, when they finally came to the "promised land," again many refused to enter the land because it involved **fighting against** and **driving out all the evil occupants** of the land (sin in our lives).

Moses prayed for all the people: **So the LORD said, "I have pardoned them according to your word; . . . (22) Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, (23) shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it. Numbers 14:20**

- Those who were rebellious **were** in "**blood covenant**" with the LORD, and were pardoned – had eternal life – but **never enjoyed** here on earth the Kingdom of God that flowed with "milk and honey."
- Those who by Faith believed and obeyed were brought into the "Promised Land" by another great leader: **JOSHUA**.
 - **Joshua** was not like other young men: Exodus 33:7-11
 - **Caleb** was not like all the rest: Numbers 14:24
 - **David** was not like all the rest: Acts 13:22

These verses reveal David's heart, his character:

Psalms 26:3-7; 101:1-4 (3) **I will set no worthless thing before my eyes**

- As Satan showed Jesus the kingdoms of this world he will do all that he can to tempt you to sin and to bring before your eyes lustful things.
- I strongly urge you to do as David did and **NEVER** look at any lewdness or immorality that Satan has made so prominent everywhere. The lusts of the flesh are a powerful force that every one of us **MUST** conquer and **DRIVE OUT**. See James 1:12, 13-15

Joshua led the LORD's people into the Promised Land, but **they had to fight** for it because it was **occupied by evil**. The more evil in our life the more fighting required to totally clear the land.

Joshua 1:1-9 . . . (7) Only **be strong** and very **courageous**; be **careful** to do **according to all the law** which Moses My servant commanded you; **DO NOT TURN** from it to the right or to the left, **so that you may have SUCCESS wherever you go**. (8) This **book** of the law **SHALL NOT depart** from your mouth, but you shall **meditate on it day and night**, so that you may be **careful to DO** according to **all that is written** in it; **for THEN you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success**. (9) Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for **the LORD your God is with you wherever you go**.

- The "book of the law" is our Creator's instructions, or operator's manual, for how to live long, healthy and prosperous lives in the Kingdom.
- But as the Israelites lived and were held captive in Egypt so have we lived in the world under it's evil ruler and learned his evil and destructive ways which have damaged us severely.
- Our Father, as in Egypt, sent His Son, The Passover Lamb who has **redeemed us by His Blood**, set us **free** and has brought us to His Kingdom (Col.1:13). And . . .

We also must fight and drive out ALL EVIL if we want to enjoy the blessings and abundant life of the "Promised Land," the Kingdom of God.

There is a spiritual battle raging and that battle is focused on defeating you and keeping you out of the Kingdom of God, because in the Kingdom, the enemy cannot touch you (1 John 5:18)

And, just as many of "His people" did not want to drive out the enemies of the land . . . so today many of the LORD's people are not living in the Kingdom of God but choosing what seems to be the "pleasures of sin" that take you captive and leave you severely hurt and damaged. 2 Timothy 2:24-26

The “**way is broad**” and **easy** because you just **follow the crowd** along the many different ways that lead to destruction.

But there is only “**one narrow way**” that leads to “abundant life” and true freedom – and that way is **HIS WAY** – life in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus said:

I came that they may have **life**, and have it **abundantly**. John 10:10

I AM **THE WAY**, and **THE TRUTH**, and **THE LIFE**; no one comes to the Father but through Me. John 14:6

- . . . the kingdom of heaven has **endured** violent assault, and **violent men seize it by force** [as a precious prize — a share in the heavenly kingdom is sought with most ardent zeal and intense exertion].
Matthew 11:12 Amplified Bible
- Acts 14:21-22 After they had preached the gospel . . . they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, **Through many tribulations we MUST enter the kingdom of God.**

Each one of us, on a daily basis, needs to continually consider and ask ourselves: **Which path am I on? Where will this take me? Which kingdom is this way leading me into? What are the consequences?**

The “wide” “broad way” is easy and **peer pressure** is **exceedingly motivating**, and the “**pleasures of sin**” are very tempting and compelling but the end thereof is “**destruction.**”

Moreover, **you shall not follow the customs of the nation** which I will drive out before you, for **they did all these things**, and therefore **I have abhorred them**. Leviticus 20:23

Jeremiah 10:2 Do not learn **the ways** of the nations (3) For the **customs** of the peoples are delusion

Jesus said: **TRULY, TRULY**, I say to you, **everyone** who commits sin is the **slave** of sin. John 8:34

- The “wide gate” and the “broad way” leads to SLAVERY, damaged and ruined lives. As we well know: **The thief (satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy**. John 10:10

John 8:35-36 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. So if **the Son** makes you **free**, you will be **free indeed**.

- The Son has the authority to give a slave his freedom. And that is exactly what JESUS does for all who recognize His Authority by **Believing** and **Receiving Him**. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son

Colossians 1:13

AND THEN TO REMAIN FREE: If you **CONTINUE in My WORD** (learning & obeying the ways of the Kingdom) then you are truly My disciples; and you will know **The Truth** and **The Truth will make you free**. John 8:31-32

And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be **TRANSFORMED** by the **renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

2 Corinthians 10:2-6 . . . some people who think that we live by the **standards of this world**. (3) For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. (4) The **weapons** we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have **divine power to demolish strongholds**. (5) We demolish **arguments** and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and **WE TAKE CAPTIVE EVERY THOUGHT** to make it **obedient** to Christ. (6) And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete. NIV

This is our major battle – **TRANSFORMATION** by **RENEWING OUR MIND** (to what is right and wrong, what we do and what we do not do).

- To reprogram our mental computer requires replacing the corrupt software we came with by hours every day reading, studying and memorizing “the Word of God.”

And by - **TAKING EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE** and replacing it with what “the Word” says and then obeying it.

- How many of your thoughts have you, or do you, take captive?

This is the battle we must continually fight and win victory after victory, driving out the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and the Jebusites one after another.

When we are abiding in the Kingdom of God we will **accept** and **live by** the **Kingdom Principals**. *The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.* 1 John 2:6

- Overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21
- Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Romans 12:14
- Whoever slaps your cheek, turn the other to him also. Matthew 5:39
- Mercy triumphs over judgment. James 2:13
- Give, and it will be given to you. Luke 6:38
- Keep your life and lose it, give it to Jesus and save it. Luke 9:24
- The apparel that you desire to wear more than any of the world's apparel and bodily "decorations" is **the Kingdom's dress**:
 - Ephesians 6:10-18 **Put on the full armor of God**
 - Proverb 3:21-22 **Keep sound wisdom and discretion, so they will be life to your soul and **adornment** to your neck.**
 - 1 Peter 3:2-4 **Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading **beauty** of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.** (Leviticus 19:28)

This verse is saying that inward beauty is far more beautiful and attractive than outward and should be our first priority.

John 15:19 **If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world**

- So why do we go to such **extremes** to be like the world in dress and actions? (i.e. Leviticus 19:28)

- Who does our dress and actions proclaim that we are trying to please?

John 17:14 . . . they are **not of the world**, even as **I am not of the world**

Colossians 2:20 **If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, WHY, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees . . . of the world and its ways that are opposite and opposing to the Kingdom of God?????**

Psalm 1:1-3 **How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! (2) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. (3) He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and whatever he does, he prospers.**

Concerning "sitting in the seat of scoffers:"

The **universities** today are following the "**broad way**" concerning Truth. Believing that truth is **relative**, that what is true depends upon the situation at hand and what is true in this instance or for one person is not true in another instance or for another person. Believing that there is no absolute right and wrong, and to them this freedom.

But they do not realize: **everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.** Oh yes, they may be enjoying the "**pleasures of sin for a season**" but the result thereof is **severely damaged lives.**

Relativism – a theory that truth and moral values are not absolute but relative to the persons or groups holding them.

- People like to believe that. It clears their conscience somewhat as they continue to follow the crowd desiring to please their peers.

Relativism is a statement right out of the kingdom of darkness and totally opposed to the Kingdom of God.

Deuteronomy 12:8 **You shall not do at all what we are doing here today, every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes**

There ARE absolute Rights & Wrongs and both with consequences

- Heaven is absolutely real. And hell is absolutely real.

- And there is ONLY ONE WAY to heaven Acts 4:12

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever** a man sows, **THIS HE WILL ALSO REAP**. For the one who **sows to his own flesh will** from the flesh **reap corruption**, but the one who **sows to the Spirit will** from the Spirit **reap eternal life**. Galatians 6:7-8

Those that are walking through the “wide gate” and in the “broad way” are:

- Rejecting absolute rights and wrongs.
- Accepting darkness for light and light for darkness
- Turning truth into lies and lies into truth
- Calling beauty ugly and ugly beautiful
- And taking glory in what is shameful

Isaiah 5:20-21 **Woe** to those who **call evil good, and good evil**; Who substitute **darkness for light** and **light for darkness**; Who **substitute bitter for sweet** and **sweet for bitter**! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight!

Philippians 3:18-21 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are **enemies of the cross of Christ**, whose end is **destruction**, whose god is their appetite, and **whose glory is in their shame**, who set their **minds on earthly things**. For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which also we **eagerly** wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The principals of the kingdom of this world are diametrically opposed and opposite of the Principals of the Kingdom of God.

Leviticus 18:3-5 **You must not do** as they do in Egypt, where you used to live, and **you must not do** as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. **DO NOT FOLLOW THEIR PRACTICES**. (4) **You must obey** my laws and be careful to **follow my decrees**. I am the LORD your God. (5) **Keep my decrees and laws**, for the man who **obeys them will live** by them. I am the LORD. NIV

Leviticus 18 continues with specific immoralities that bring destruction.

One set of principals brings lies, deceits, hurts, problems, pain, poverty, bondage, destruction and death. And the LORD's set of principals brings right relationships, truth, peace, joy and abundant LIFE.

2 Peter 1:3-11 His divine power has granted to us **everything pertaining to life and godliness**, through the **true knowledge** of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. (4) For by these He has granted to us His **precious and magnificent promises**, so that **by them** you may become **partakers** of the divine nature, having **escaped** the corruption that is in the world by lust. (5) Now for this very reason also, applying all **diligence**, in your **faith** supply **moral excellence**, and in your moral excellence, **knowledge**, (6) and in your knowledge, **self-control**, and in your self-control, **perseverance**, and in your perseverance, **godliness**, (7) and in your godliness, brotherly **kindness**, and in your brotherly kindness, **love**. (8) For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (9) For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. (10) Therefore, brethren, be all the more **diligent** to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for **as long as you practice these things**, you will **never stumble**; (11) for in this way the **entrance into the eternal kingdom** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

To be diligent and alert we must: Pray, then, in this way: Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. (10) **Your Kingdom come**, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:9-10

- "on earth" - that is what we are made of. If we seriously pray this prayer as we are told to, we are desiring and pleading that the King will reign in our life and we will obey Him. Thus living by His instruction, His principals. The result – our life will be:
- "as it is in heaven" - "**righteousness and peace and joy**"

Principals necessary to abide in the Kingdom of God:

I. We Must Walk as He Walked:

1 John 2:6 The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

1 Peter 2:21-23 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also **suffered** for you, leaving you **an example for you to follow in His steps**, (22) who committed **no sin**, nor was any **deceit** found in his mouth; (23) and while being reviled, He did **not revile** in return; while suffering, He uttered **no threats**, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.

John 12:26 If anyone serves Me, **he must follow Me**; and where I am, there My servant will be also; **if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.**

The Disciples obeyed and followed Him and were honored:

Peter said, "Behold, we have left our own homes and followed You." (29) And He said to them, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the **kingdom** of God, (30) who will not **receive many times as much at this time** and in the age to come, **eternal life.**" Luke 18:28-30

II. We Must Live a Life of Giving

The **Kingdom principal** is **first give and then it will be given to you** (Luke 6:38). This world's principal is "first get, take and keep and then get more."

In the Kingdom of God you: win by losing / live by dying / gain by giving / move up by moving down.

Jesus is expressing the importance and need of: FAITHFULNESS and LOYALTY to the work of Lord, the KING.

Luke 12:42 And the Lord said, "**Who then is the faithful** and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?"

Luke 16:10-13 **He who is faithful** in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous (faithful = righteous) in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. (11) Therefore if you have not been **faithful** in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you? (12) And if you have not been **faithful** in the use of that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?

Faithful living by Kingdom principals will produce a change in the earthly kingdom around you over time. This is demonstrated in the action of King David:

1 Samuel 30:23-25 Then David said, "with what the LORD has given us, For as his share is who goes down to the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage; they shall share alike." (25) So it has been from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.

In the same manner, Jesus often healed all and fed all without discrimination. Or, in other words, Kingdom blessings flowed out from Him to everyone.

Matthew 10:8 **Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.**

Living by Kingdom principals and receiving the blessings thereof is a powerful witness to those around us, to our community, that can change the way everyone lives and responds to one another.

Faithfulness with what you do with what you now have is the key to Rewards.

Hebrews 11:6 **And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.**

DILIGENCE – Visualizing each task as a special assignment from the LORD and using all my energies to accomplish it.

Colossians 3:23 **Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men.**

RESPONSIBILITY - Knowing and doing what both God and others are expecting from me.

Romans 14:12 **So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God**

Mark 1:15 **The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.**

- Repent means – change your mind, change your way of thinking.

Mark 4:26-34 **And He was saying, The Kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; (27) and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows — how, he himself does not know. (28) The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head. (29) But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.**

Parable of the Mustard Seed: Mark 4:30-32

And He said, How shall we picture the **Kingdom of God**, or by what parable shall we present it? (31) It **is like a mustard seed**, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smaller than all the seeds that are upon the soil, (32) yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that the birds of the air can nest under its shade.

Luke 7:28 I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet he who is least in the **Kingdom of God** is greater than he.

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the **poor in spirit***, for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven**. *humble, not arrogant or prideful

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who have been **persecuted** for the sake of **righteousness**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

1 Peter 3:14 Should **suffer** for the sake of **righteousness**, you are blessed.

And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled.

Matthew 19:14-15 Jesus said, "Let the **children** alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the **kingdom** of heaven **belongs** to such as these."

Matthew 25:34 Come, you who are blessed of My Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Luke 22:29-30 Just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant that you may eat and drink at My table in **My kingdom**.

Hebrews 12:28-29 Therefore, since **we are receiving a kingdom** that cannot be shaken, let us **be thankful**, and so worship God acceptably with **reverence** and **awe**, (29) for our "God is a consuming fire. NIV