

# Jesus Curriculum

## Lesson 11

Matthew 6:33, 13:44-46; Luke 17:20-21;

Romans 14:16-17

March 15, 2020

## What is the Kingdom of God?

### Introduction

The kingdom of God is not a political kingdom, but instead, it is a kingdom that exists in the hearts and minds of those who trust in Jesus. When Jesus becomes the king of our hearts, then our lives become part of the kingdom of God. The Pharisees expected a Messiah that would bring a political coup that would overthrow the Roman rule of Israel, but the reign that Jesus brings is more personal and more profound. When we trust in the work of Jesus, we receive the free gift of citizenship in the kingdom of God. Our daily lives will reflect our citizenship as we believe in Jesus rather than allowing worries and stress to dominate our thoughts and minds.

***Memory verse: "Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."***

***—Luke 17:20-21***

Pray and read Matthew 6:33, 13:44-46; Luke 17:20-21;

Romans 14:16-17.

What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

## What do the passages say?

1. What did Jesus say is the antidote for worry?  
(Matthew 6:31-33)
2. What should we seek first? What will happen when we seek the kingdom first? (Matthew 6:33)
3. What does Jesus compare the kingdom of God to in Matthew 13? (Matthew 13:44-46)
4. How did each character respond upon finding the treasure? (Matthew 13:44-46)
5. Did Jesus say that the kingdom of God is something that exists in political terms, or is it something that exists inside of those who trust Him? (Luke 17:20-21; John 3:5)
6. What did Paul say the kingdom of God is?  
(Romans 14:17)

## What do the passages mean?

1. Why did Jesus not answer the Pharisees directly when they asked about the kingdom of God? What did Jesus mean when He said that the kingdom of God is “in your midst”? (Luke 17:20-21)
  
2. Jesus announced the arrival of the kingdom of God very early in His ministry. He announced it immediately after His baptism and even before choosing His disciples. What does this say about the connection between the ministry of Jesus and the kingdom of God? Do you think the kingdom of God existed before Jesus came to earth and started His ministry? (Mark 1:9-15)
  
3. What do our behavior and our obedience have to do with the kingdom of God? What does harmony among believers have to do with the kingdom of God? (Romans 14:17-19)

4. The man in Matthew 13:44 sold everything to buy the field to get the treasure. Note that he had to give up everything to get the treasure, but the treasure itself was free. What does this tell us about the kingdom of God and its availability to you? (Matthew 13:44)
  
5. Is the kingdom of God something that we achieve or something that is given? What does it mean for the kingdom of God to be present in our lives? (Luke 12:22-32)

### **Applying the passages**

1. The Pharisees thought of the “kingdom of God” in geopolitical terms, probably expecting that God would send a Messiah to overthrow the Romans. How was the Pharisees’ expectation different than Jesus’ description of the kingdom of God? How do you think most people today would define the “kingdom of God” if you were to ask them? How would you answer them if they were to ask you what your definition is? (Zechariah 14:9, Luke 10:8-9)

