



Key References:

Matthew 4:16–17 (ESV) – *“the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”*¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 4:23–24 (ESV) – And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.²⁴ So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them.

Matthew 5:2–10 (ESV) – And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [...]¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

John 18:36 (ESV) – Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

Revelation 19:16 (ESV) – On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

1 – WHY DID JESUS COME?

As we arrive at the Christmas season; if we were to ask the secular world the central reasons of why Jesus was born, what would they say?

If you had to boil all the reasons of why Jesus came down to just one which one would it be?

Why did Nathan start out this series by concentrating on the fact that Jesus came to usher in the Kingdom of God?

2 – CHARACTERISTICS OF THE KINGDOM

Read Matthew 4:16-17 and 4:23-25. Picking out different things from this scripture what are some characteristics of the Kingdom of heaven being at hand?

What does it tell you about God that the call to repentance was also accompanied by healings and mercy?

As we as a church continue to usher in the Kingdom of heaven. Do we see these same characteristics of Jesus on display today?

3 – UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM

Read on to Matthew 5:1-11 where Jesus teaches the crowds that were drawn to him in chapter 4. Christmas is a time to be generous because God has been generous to us. How does this scripture display God’s generosity in the kingdom to us?

Why does Jesus so often seek after the “poor in spirit” and other groups identified here? How then should we seek after these same groups?

Who are the “poor in spirit” and the “meek” within your circles?

4 – LIVING AS IF JESUS IS KING

Read John 18:36. Why do we have to remember that Jesus’ kingdom is “not of this world?”

If Jesus’ kingdom is not of this world how can we keep him as King while living in a foreign kingdom?

Read Revelation 19:11-16. What perspective does reading this put on Christmas?