



## **I. WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?**

The Kingdom of God is synonymous with “The Kingdom of Heaven” and is a term used to describe heaven and the church. But, its most basic meaning is “the sovereign rule of God as king over all”.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

Jesus answered, “My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.”

John 18:36 (NLT)

He said, “The time has come, and the kingdom of God is near. Change the way you think and act, and believe the Good News.”

Mark 1:15 (GOD’S WORD)

**If we only had eyes to see and ears to hear and wits to understand, we would know that the Kingdom of God in the sense of holiness, goodness, beauty is as close as breathing and is crying out to born both within ourselves and within the world; we would know that the Kingdom of God is what we all of us hunger for above all other things even when we don’t know its name or realize that it’s what we’re starving to death for. The Kingdom of God is where our best dreams come from and our truest prayers. We glimpse it at those moments when we find ourselves being better than we are and wiser than we know. We catch sight of it when at some moment of crisis a strength seems to come to us that is greater than our own strength. The Kingdom of God is where we belong. It is home, and whether we realize it or not, I think we are all of us homesick for it.**

**Frederick Buechner**

## **II. HOW DOES JESUS ILLUSTRATE THE KINGDOM OF GOD? MARK 4:21-34**

### **1. The Parable of the Lamp: Jesus is the light of Kingdom (v.21-25)**

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

John 3:19 (NIV)

How terrible it will be for people who call good things bad and bad things good, who think darkness is light and light is darkness, who think sour is sweet and sweet is sour.

Isaiah 5:20 (NCV)

2. **The Parable of the Growing Seed: God empowers the growth of the Kingdom (v.26-29)**
3. **The Parable of the Mustard Seed: The potential of God's Kingdom is unlimited (v.31-34)**

### **III. WHY DO THESE PARABLES MATTER TO ME?**

1. **The closer I listen—the more understanding I will be given**

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow.  
Galatians 6:7 (NRSV)

#### **Three important things to remember about “The Law of Reciprocity”**

- I harvest what I plant
- I harvest more than I plant
- I harvest in a different season than I plant

2. **God is at work in my life even when I can't see it**

There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.

Philippians 1:6 (The Message)

3. **Great things have small beginnings**

Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin...  
Zechariah 4:10a (NLT)

4. **I can always live with an attitude of hope**

I will never give up hope or stop praising you.  
Psalm 71:14 (CEV)