

## The kingdom of God Pt 1 Jesus' teaching to His disciples

This is a new study on the kingdom of God (KOG). We establish three points from Jesus' teaching- (i) How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the KOG? (ii) those who love the Lord with all their heart, understanding, soul, and strength were not far from the KOG, and (iii) Jesus told the chief priest and elders that the harlots would go into the KOG before them.

More detail from the scriptures on our three points –  
Jesus taught his disciples

### 1. He asked: how hardly shall they that have riches enter into the KOG?

[23] And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

[24] And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! (Mk 10: 23). See also Lk 18:24.

Then He says it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter into the KOG

Mk.10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. See also Lk 18:25

\* Seek NOT physical things as the Gentiles seek

[31] Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

[32] (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. (Matt.6: 31, 32).

\* BUT seek ye first the KOG and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matt.6: 33). See also Lk 12:31.

### 2. Those who love the Lord with all their heart, understanding, soul, and all their strength were not far from the KOG

[32] And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:

33] And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself...

[34] And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God (Mk.12: 32-34)

It is better to enter into the KOG with one eye than two eyes to be cast into hell

“And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell...” (Mk 9:47).

Forbid not the little children to come- for of such is the KOG

“But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God”. (Mk 10:14 ). See also Lk 18:16

We are to receive the KOG as a little child or we shall not enter in

“Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter there in” (Mk.10: 15). See also Lk.18: 17.

### 3. Jesus told the chief priest and elders

\* that the publicans and harlots would go into the KOG before them

[23] And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching...

[31]...Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. (Matt.21: 23, 31).

\* that the KOG will be taken from them and given to nation bringing forth fruits.

[42] Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner...

[43] Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof (Matt. 21: 42, 43)

#### Illustration

In answer to the question- what is the kingdom of God? The official Jehovah Witness (JW) website answers- "God's Kingdom is a real government established by Jehovah God. The 'Kingdom of God' is also called the 'Kingdom of heaven' in the Bible". If you are asking- how can that be? They do so by changing the word of God- where, instead of the kingdom of God being "within you" (Lk.17: 21). Their NWT says - "The Kingdom of God is among you."

#### Questions of the scriptures

- i) How did a person see and enter into the KOG?
- ii) If the KOG is spiritual where is it?

#### Answers from the scriptures

i) To see and enter into the KOG a person must be born of the Spirit of God

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he can not see the kingdom of God" (Jn.3: 3).

Nicodemus asked- How can a man be born when he is old

"Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" (Jn.3: 4).

Jesus's reply- Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the KOG- Jn.3: 5- "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he can not enter into the kingdom of God".

Jesus continued- that which is born of flesh is flesh (when man is physically born of a woman), that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (man's spirit)- Jn.3 :6- "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit".

ii) Jesus taught that the KOG is within you

[20] And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:

[21] Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you (Lk 17:20, 21).

A key learning from this study- DO NOT engage in a discussion with a JW or any other cult, or anyone that holds to a different written authority. You will discuss doctrine until the "cows come home" so to speak, and waste days, months and years!

When we consider our learning from the previous teaching on rightly dividing the word of truth- how do we apply it to- Jesus' teaching on the KOG- for to today? How does the need to be born again apply to the church? Tune in next week!