

**"The Kingdom of God"**

No. I.

N. Common  
7/27/51  
AM

-----  
 General Text: Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
 on earth as it is in heaven.

**Introduction:**-State purpose of preaching a series of sermons on The Kingdom of God.

As Christians we are accustomed to using the word "kingdom", but its meaning is often quite vague

1. Jesus' meaning in use of word in L. P.
2. What does word mean to us?
3. What is the kingdom of God?
4. Was Jesus much interested in the kingdom?
5. Which is the more important, the kingdom or the church?

**I. The Kingdom Fundamental in the Mind of Jesus.**

1. Throughout all of his teaching and doing, the idea of the kingdom is prominent.
2. Word used 47 times in Matt; 13 times in Mark; 31 times in Luke; and 5 times in John.
3. Of the 29 parables in the N.T., 17 are definite parables of the kingdom. (Name a few)
4. In interview with Nicodemus, in his preaching, and in his commission to the 70, he laid especial emphasis on the kingdom.

**II. What is the Kingdom?**

1. Definition. "The kingdom of God is the rule of God. The kingdom of God is the sphere in ~~whi~~ which his rule is exercised. The kingdom of God is the result realized within his realm thru his rule.

2. Is the kingdom subjective or objective?

a. It is both. The primary principle is the subjection of the human will to the will of God; a union of the human will with the divine; the human will freely accepting the divine will. This means full surrender of the human to the divine.

b. But the incorporation of the will of God in the wills of men, means the conformity of the actions of men to the will of God. We cannot separate the inner lives of men from the social order. What a man is within he will be in his social relations. "Thy will be done in earth as it is

in heaven has reference to more than the inward state of the individual.

3. Are the Church and the Kingdom the same?

1. The church is the creation of the kingdom, because of the environment of the early ch.
2. The kingdom is more than a church.
3. The church is the agency of the kingdom, and not an end within itself. Many a church like a railroad engine, thundering, steaming, puffing but drawing no train, and headed for nowhere. When a church ceases to be an instrument of the kingdom, or when the kingdom can better be served by the abandonment of any particular church or churches, and the union of the Christian people, there should be no hesitancy to do so.

### III. How May Men Enter the Kingdom?

1. Jesus told Nicodemus that if he would enter the kingdom he must be born again. He treated men as being outside the kingdom, and made it clear that there must be on their part a definite act of entrance. This entrance would result in a new creature, a new life. Jesus' new social order was to be realized by the regeneration of the individuals that make up the social order. Regeneration will ever be fundamental in the program of kingdom building.

2. "Except ye turn and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter the kingdom of heaven". A man must go back to childhood, to the spirit of a child, if he is to enter the kingdom.

3. The volitional necessity. "If thine eye cause thee to stumble etc".

The process of entering the kingdom is revolution rather than evolution. Repentance was made fundamental.

**Conc.** It is ours to ask ourselves the simplest of all questions. Have I entered the kingdom? If not, how shall I enter?