

THE MESSAGE

This morning we continue our summer series looking at the **kingdom of God**. Last week we gave emphasis to the NATURE of His kingdom. Today we begin with our second topic... the MESSAGE of the kingdom.

THE MESSAGE

The message of the kingdom was the first given by John the Baptist

Matthew 3:2 – "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." (NIV)

Matthew 1:15 – "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" (NIV)

- (NLT) – "The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

First message of the church

Acts 2:38 – "Repent and be baptized every one of you for the remission of your sins..."

Repentance is the first word of the Kingdom message. Jesus says REPENT: Think differently about your relationship with God... with others and with yourself

The next aspect of the kingdom message is believe

BELIEVE

Mark 1:14 – "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe in the gospel**"

Jesus' exhortation for His listeners to repent indicated **that they needed to change their minds**. Now when he tells them to believe in the gospel indicated **how they needed to change their minds**.

John 14:6 – Jesus said, “I am the way the truth and the life...”

So the message is change you're thinking... now believe in the message

The Idea in the Greek – Believe... is much more than mental assent... it is literally to glue yourself to... to form a bond of trust so close it can never be separated

- To be convinced ...glue yourself to this gospel

Matthew 4:23 – Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. (NIV)

Jesus mentions the Kingdom 120x in His teaching

Matthew 13:24 -The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.

Matthew 13:31-The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed...

Matthew 13:33 "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast ...

Matthew 13:44-"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field.

Matthew 13:45-... the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.

Matthew 13:47-...the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.

In every way possible Jesus says this is the kingdom... and then He demonstrated it by helping and healing people... Setting people free... to set them at liberty- this is the good news of Jesus Christ!!

- He said **pray for the kingdom to come**... to be established on the earth one Heart at a time
- He said **seek this kingdom first** above all else... and the rest will fall into place

Luke 12:32 ...it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom... (NKJV)

The last today is word today

THE MESSAGE IS GOOD NEWS

Mark 1:14 –The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

So today the message is **Repent**... change our minds.

Believe the Gospel... Embrace whole heartedly His message of salvation for the whole of the rest of my life...

Lastly **the Gospel is Good news!!** Jesus came to save us.