**APPLYING THE KINGDOM**

**Text: Matthew 4:17**

* Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**INTRO:**

* What is the main message of this verse?
* MAIN MESSAGE: The kingdom of heaven is at hand or near
* The main deception is for us to believe that the kingdom of heaven will take place after we die.
* If that is the case, Jesus wouldn’t command us to seek the kingdom
* People nowadays doesn’t understand what is the kingdom as most of us haven’t heard about it anyway

**AIM:**

* FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN SHOULD TAKE PLACE HERE ON EARTH
* FOR US TO APPLY THE KINGDOM NOW

**I. KINGDOM OF GOD DEFINED:**

* Is the governing influence of a king over his territory (domain), IMPACTING it with his:
* Personal will
* Purpose
* and Intent,
* PRODUCING a :
* Culture
* Values
* Morals and
* Lifestyle that reflect The king’s desire and nature for his citizens.

**II. JOHN’S AND JESUS’ MESSAGE REGARDING THE KINGDOM**

* REPENT
* To repent means to change our minds or the way we think
* If we used to think or believe before that the kingdom of God takes place after death, NOW YOU HAVE TO CHANGE YOUR MIND AND BELIEF ABOUT IT
* The kingdom of heaven is AT HAND
* Near
* Not beyond our reach
* Not after death
* IT IS RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW
* Luke 17:21 the kingdom of God is within you.
* For that to take effect, you have to change your mind (Repent)
* 1Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived.
* Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,
* 1Cor 6:10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.
* The main reason why these people did not inherit the kingdom of God is THEY DID NOT CHANGE THEIR MINDS
* IF YOUR MIND IS NOT CHANGED, YOU WILL NEVER CHANGE YOUR ACTIONS
* Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what [is] that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

**III.RESULT OF THE DECEPTION TO BELIEVE THAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AFTER DEATH**

* All of us are longing to heaven but only few are walking on it
* Matthew 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide [is] the gate and broad [is] the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.
* Matthew 7:14 "Because narrow [is] the gate and difficult [is] the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.
* Lots of people go to church but are hard-headed or strong willed
* They do what they wanted to do as if the Lord has no power over them
* They hear God’s word but they don’t care
* The longer they stay in church they become worse instead of being transformed
* Ephesians 5:27 that He might present her to Himself a:
* glorious church,
* not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing,
* but that she should be holy and without blemish.

**IV. GOD’S CONCERN IS NOT ONLY FOR ETERNAL LIFE BUT FOR OUR LIVES TODAY**

* Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the LORD [is] upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To:
* preach the gospel to [the] poor-life here on earth
* He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted- life here on earth
* To proclaim liberty to [the] captives- life here on earth
* And recovery of sight to [the] blind,- life here on earth
* To set at liberty those who are oppressed- life here on earth
* IF GOD WANTED TO BLESS YOUR LIFE TODAY, HE ALSO WANTED TO INFLUENCE IT TODAY RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW

**V. APPLYING THE KINGDOM**

* Seek the Kingdom of God FIRST
* Allow Him to govern your life
* Let His Words affect your life or be influenced by it
* Let His desire be yours
* Let His purpose become your purpose
* Let His will be done not yours

**CHALENGE:**

* Who is governing your life, you or God?
* Is His will being done in your life?
* Are you living on His purpose or yours?

**CONCLUSION:**

* Mathew 6:10 May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
* The only proof that His kingdom has come is His will being done