**THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND**

**Text: Matthew 4:17**

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

**INTRO:**

* Mat 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.
* The gospel of the kingdom is, **“The Kingdom of heaven is at hand”.**

**AIM:**

* FOR US TO REPENT SO AS TO WELCOME THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

**I. WE WERE LOST FROM THE KINGDOM of heaven**

* We have learned that the Garden of Eden was a heaven on earth.
* With the Holy Spirit on men, the kingdom of heaven was with men.
* Adam & Eve was driven away from the presence of God
* Gen 3:22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"-
* Gen 3:23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.
* Gen 3:24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.
* They were no longer capable of bearing the Holy Spirit within them because of sin.
* Death came into human being.

**II. JESUS CAME TO RESTORE THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN TO US**

* Luke 4:43 but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.
* Preaching was so important as our minds were blinded by the ruler of this world.
* 2Cr 4:3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,
* 2Cr 4:4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe,
* lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.
* Mat 4:16 The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.“

**III. RESTORATION OF ACCESS TO GOD’S PRESENCE**

* Hebrews10:19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,
* Hebrews 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,
* Hebrews 9:14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
* He is the way to the Father-John 14:6

**IV. FORGIVENESS WAS GRANTED**

* 1Jo 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world
* Hebrews 10:16 "This [is] the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"
* Hebrews 10:17 [then He adds], "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more

**V. WE CAN NOW BE THE DWELLING PLACE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ONCE AGAIN**

* John 7:38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."
* John 7:39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet [given], because Jesus was not yet glorified.
* Luke 11:13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will [your] heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"
* Mat 12:28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

**VI. RESTORATION OF OUR FREEDOM**

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

* John 8:36 "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed
* You’ll be free from the yoke of slavery
* You’ll be free from the devil’s lies
* You can now desire and do what you want.
* 2Cr 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord [is], there [is] liberty.

**VII. RESTORATION OF OUR AUTHORITY TO RULE OVER THE EARTH**

* God did not create us to be victims of our circumstances and the devil
* Mat 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
* Mat 16:19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.“

**VIII. RESTORATION OF POWER**

* Act 1:8"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you
* shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
* Power is the ability to influence
* We will be His witnesses with the influencing capability
* In a way, the kingdom of God-Influencing power of God in you
* When this influence impacts the lives of the people around you-Kingdom of heaven.
* Mat 13:31 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field,
* Mat 13:32 "which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but
* when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."
* Mat 13:33 Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.“

**CHALLENGE:**

* Do you really believe that the kingdom of heaven is at hand?
* Are you influencing the people within your sphere of influence?

**CONCLUSION:**

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