

# THE IMPORTANCE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD



Jesus said to His disciples, "many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you can see but didn't see it, and longed to hear what you can hear but didn't hear it" (Matthew 13:17). Imagine that, what many longed to see and hear, was shared with the disciples by Jesus. Why? Because they were his friends.

The crowd came to see miracles, but the disciples were there for Jesus. When reading Matthew 13, we see that people put themselves in a position in which they do not want to understand, whereas the disciples had a different attitude. Mathew 13:19 speaks about the seed that landed on the pathway, this illustration presents the people that receive the word of God but do not understand it therefore the evil one comes to steal the word because of lack of understanding.

The major thing that prevents someone from understanding is not asking a question about what they have received. We see the disciples asking Jesus questions about the parable because they did not understand. They were not just part of the crowd, they got closer to Jesus and because they got closer, Jesus gave them an explanation about the parable. You gain understanding when you draw closer.

Jesus spoke about the 4 states of our hearts when receiving the word of God. The first was a heart with a lack of understanding which was already discussed. The second was a heart that receives the word with joy but because the word is not rooted, the seed dies. Jesus spoke about the heart that chokes the seed, because of the worries of this world. Lastly, he speaks of a heart that understands the word and produces a harvest.

We should always check the state of our hearts and the state of the hearts of the people we are leading. So that the word that can produce a harvest that can benefit others will not be stolen, die or choked. When our hearts are fertile, the word of God yields a harvest. The good news of the Kingdom of God will always be persecuted from within (if our hearts aren't aligned to God) or by things around us because it brings identity.

Verse 21 speaks about the word of God being persecuted and later a story about the enemy planting weeds amongst wheat shows that there will always be a battle for our heart. But this story reminds us to grow in the word of God so that we may differentiate what is of God and what is from the devil. The master in verse 30 says: "Let's both grow together until the harvest and I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds and burn them". Growing in the word of God will help you identify the weeds that are sown by the devil; therefore, it is important to meditate on the word and be alert.

The Kingdom of God has its principles, God does not get His rulership ideas from a man, but He reigns with a different perspective. Meditating on the word of God does not only allow us to identify the weeds but helps us see things the way God sees things. It is important because we are part of God's Kingdom and we need to think and move like him here on earth. God does not take His rulership from men, but a heavenly point of view and we are currently living in His Kingdom (John 18:36). God is encouraging us to go deeper and impact the world with His kingdom. There are different steps to follow to impact through the Kingdom of God:

1. You should know who sent you. Learn to know God without you in the picture. Who is God without being your provider or healer? Know Him for who He is.
2. When you get to the point of knowing who God is, He will reveal who He is to you!
3. As you get to know God, you will get to know His heart. Jesus revealed the secrets to the disciples because they were spending time with Him. God wants us to come to Him to know Him first before He reveals himself. You can always call God your friend, but does he know you like that?

Through meditation and prayer, you can learn to know the heart of God. We should stop limiting God but rather allow Him to have a relationship with us by spending time with Him. When you spend time with him, you will know His burden and He will use you as a vessel. When He starts using you as a vessel, you become a light in the world. A light working hand in hand with our Father to advance His Kingdom because the Kingdom of God is at hand.

