



The
KINGDOM
Is Near

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE
THE KINGDOM OF GOD

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

²⁹ “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’³² There is no commandment greater than these.”

³² “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

– Mark 12:28-34

There are two primary views of the world.

1. Man is _____ and broken _____.
2. Man is _____ and needs the _____.

What brings someone near the kingship of Christ?

1. A hunger to _____.
2. A desire to _____.
3. A recognition that _____ precedes service to God.
4. A willingness to _____ to find it.

What gets us in?

Moving from _____ Jesus to _____ to Jesus.

Two ongoing challenges

Some enter _____ but live by _____.

Some are _____ and in need of someone to _____.

Many people are only _____ from the kingdom of God.

²³ Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

– Luke 9:23

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says there is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each person. How do you see that in our world today?
2. How do we see that working out in the life of the scribe who engaged Jesus?
3. What would the scribe's understanding of experiencing the kingdom of God be?
4. The scribe was clearly hungry to know the truth of God. Are you as hungry for God's truth as you once were? If not, why not?
5. What was the scribe's understanding regarding the law and love?
6. What risk was the scribe willing to take to acknowledge the soundness of Jesus' teaching? When was the last time you took a risk regarding your faith in Jesus?
7. Does Jesus' response to the scribe surprise you? Why do you suppose Jesus didn't quote John 3:16 to him? Is there any lesson here for us as we encounter people who may have a heart hunger to know the kingdom of God?
8. In what ways can we be like the scribe, viewing the kingship of Christ in our lives through the lense of what we do and don't do?
9. Why is it important for us to know that many have a heart hunger for God's reign in their lives but don't really understand how it can become real?
10. How does Luke 9:23 apply to the things considered in the previous questions?