

The Kingdom of Heaven comes through the person and mission of Jesus and he asks us to be like him and do what he did.

The Sermon on the Mount: A message Jesus gave as written in Matthew. It's essentially about life in the kingdom of heaven.

Read: Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5-7

1. What is the kingdom of heaven?

The kingdom of heaven doesn't have any borders:

It's not a geographical entity with borders but what has been called a **dynamic kingdom**. It's based around people not places or governments.

The kingdom of heaven is not just about God's rule and sovereignty:

God is sovereign he rules everywhere whether we like it or not.

Matthew 28:18 "all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me". But that's not what Jesus means here as he talks about people **entering the kingdom (5:20)**.

It's like a sphere within God's rule and authority. The Kingdom of Heaven is about life – Jesus talks about a gateway to life when he talks about entering the kingdom. (7:13) those that are in it have life, those that are not in it don't have life.

The Kingdom of heaven is not about a people obeying a set of rules

You might think a kingdom is defined by obeying a set of rules – a law. As long as you obey the rulebook you're in the kingdom. Actually what Jesus says here is a lot harder than that – it's about what's inside that counts however many rules you obey.

It's **an internal thing that leads to external behaviour**. In anybody's book this is impossible in every aspect Jesus talks about in this message. – e.g. not being angry vs. murder, (5:21-26)

2. How do I get into the Kingdom of Heaven?

Jesus says the **entry requirement is to be "poor in Spirit"**

You have to realise you've got nothing to offer God or nothing of worth to trade with him to enter the kingdom.

In the Kingdom of Heaven you just have to admit there is no reason in yourself why you should be admitted. Just doesn't really describe it - This is not easy – Jesus calls it a narrow path that few find.

But if we are going to make it we all need to realise we can't do it on our own. That's because you can never make the requirements: a perfect life completely obedient to God and a heart completely for him.

Instead **the Kingdom of Heaven comes through Jesus**. He brought it into being by living the perfect kingdom of heaven life and then offering it to us in exchange for our less than perfect life. We then can become citizens of this kingdom. That's what Jesus meant when he said *the poor in spirit are blessed because theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven*.

The only way we get it is to admit that we do not have any of the resources to put any of the Sermon on the Mount standards into practice. We cannot fulfil God's standards ourselves. **Once we realise this we're in the right place for God to fill us** and that's the amazing thing about being a citizen of the Kingdom of heaven – we get Jesus's perfect life and him working in us changing us so that we fully see the Kingdom of Heaven in our lives.

Conclusion

The kingdom of heaven is worth being a part of.

When I read Jesus's message I want to be part of the kingdom of heaven – it's the real deal –

- > People being different because their hearts have changed not out of fear or religious rule keeping.
- > It's something worth so much that I would give everything to be part of it.
- > It's solid and won't fail and is worth building your whole life on.
- > It's something that won't fail to get noticed even in this crowded crazy world.