

Things that Pertain to the Kingdom of God
(Acts 1:1-3)

Introduction:

1. As Luke introduced the book of Acts, he stated that the apostles saw Jesus after His resurrection for a period of 40 days.
2. During that time Jesus spoke to the apostles *"of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."*
3. This morning we studied one of these things -- we showed from John 3 that the new birth is a requirement for entering the kingdom.
4. In this lesson we are considering some additional matters that are revealed in the Bible.
5. Let us begin by showing that . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE BIBLE IDENTIFIES THOSE WHO WILL, AND WHO WILL NOT, ENTER GOD'S KINGDOM
 - A. The Scriptures teach that certain people will not be allowed to enter the kingdom.
 1. Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 13:23-29
 2. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
 3. Galatians 5:19-21
 - B. To enter the kingdom, the Scriptures teach us:
 1. to be *"poor in spirit"* (Matthew 5:3) as illustrated by the publican (Luke 18:13)
 2. to be *"converted"* (Matthew 18:1-4; 19:13-14)
 3. to be *"born again"* (John 3:3,5)
 4. to be *"translated"* [transferred] into it (Colossians 1:13-14; 2:12-13; Acts 2:47).
 - C. In addition to identifying those who will, and will not, enter God's kingdom, . . .
- II. THE BIBLE REVEALS THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS OF GOD'S KINGDOM
 - A. In general, members of God's kingdom must submit to the will of the King.
 1. Jesus is King (1 Timothy 6:15), and the New Testament is His Word (Hebrews 9:15).
 2. Members of God's kingdom must know Jesus' Word and only say and do those things He authorizes (Colossians 3:16-17).
 - B. Two specific matters include:
 1. seeking God's kingdom *"first"* (Matthew 6:33)
 2. serving others (Matthew 20:20-28; 25:34-40).

Conclusion:

1. There are many other *"things pertaining to the kingdom of God"* that are addressed in the Bible.
2. May God help us to search His Word carefully to learn these things and then to put them into practice!
3. Being a faithful member of God's kingdom will certainly matter on that great day when Jesus returns (1 Corinthians 15:24).