

Jesus Preached the Gospel of the Kingdom
(Matthew 4:23)

Introduction:

1. This verse teaches us that the Lord's work consisted primarily of 2 activities:
 - a. teaching and preaching
 - b. healing.
2. The Gospels emphasize the fact that "Jesus preached the Gospel of the kingdom."
 - a. Matthew 9:35
 - b. Luke 4:43; 8:1
3. As Jesus preached the Gospel of the kingdom, He gave His requirements for entering God's kingdom.
4. In our lesson we are studying the Lord's requirements.

Discussion:

- I. WE MUST BE *"POOR IN SPIRIT"* (Matthew 5:3)
 - A. Additional passages help us understand the Lord's requirement (Psalm 51:17; Isaiah 57:15; 66:2).
 - B. Requests like those David made in Psalm 19:12-14; 139:23-24 are indications that a person is poor in spirit.
 - C. The publican in the Lord's parable in Luke 18:9-14 was poor in spirit while the Pharisee was not.
- II. WE MUST *"EXCEED THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES"* (Matthew 5:19-20)
 - A. The scribes and Pharisees disobeyed certain commands of God, and they taught others to do the same.
 - B. To enter the kingdom of heaven we must not follow the example of these people.
- III. WE MUST DO THE FATHER'S WILL (Matthew 7:21-23)
 - A. At the judgment many will be lost who will claim to have done great things in the Lord's name.
 - B. Jesus requires us to do His Father's will.
- IV. WE MUST *"BE CONVERTED AND BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN"* (Matthew 18:1-4)
 - A. The disciples wanted to know who was the greatest in the kingdom.
 - B. Before Jesus answered their question in vs.4 He told them how to enter the kingdom in vs.3.
- V. WE MUST ELIMINATE THINGS THAT WILL CAUSE US TO STUMBLE (Mark 9:43-48)
 - A. Jesus illustrated His point by referring to important parts of the body that we would not want to lose, including a hand, a foot, and an eye.
 - B. Anything that will cause us to stumble must be eliminated, even something as special as a hand, a foot, or an eye.
- VI. WE MUST *"BE BORN AGAIN,"* THAT IS, *"BE BORN OF WATER AND OF THE SPIRIT"* (John 3:3-5)

Conclusion:

1. As Jesus preached the Gospel of the kingdom, He gave His requirements for entering God's kingdom.
2. Have you complied with His requirements?