

Jesus Preached the Kingdom of God  
(Luke 4:40-44)

Introduction:

1. In these verses we read about the 2 main activities that Jesus participated in during His ministry: healing and preaching.
2. Concerning His preaching, in vs.43 Jesus stated that:
  - a. He was compelled to "preach the kingdom of God"
  - b. He was sent to do so.
3. Preaching the kingdom was very important to the Lord.
  - a. Matthew 4:17, 23
  - b. Matthew 9:35
  - c. Luke 8:1
4. As Jesus preached, He gave His requirements for entering God's kingdom.
5. In our lesson we are studying 6 of the Lord's requirements.

Discussion:

- I. (Matthew 5:3) TO ENTER GOD'S KINGDOM WE MUST BE *"POOR IN SPIRIT"*
  - 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. (Matthew 5:19-20) TO ENTER GOD'S KINGDOM WE MUST *"EXCEED THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES"*
  - 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. (Matthew 7:21-23) TO ENTER GOD'S KINGDOM WE MUST DO THE FATHER'S WILL
  - 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. (Matthew 18:1-4) TO ENTER GOD'S KINGDOM WE MUST *"BE CONVERTED AND BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN"*
  - 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. (Mark 9:43-48) TO ENTER GOD'S KINGDOM WE MUST ELIMINATE THINGS THAT WILL CAUSE US TO STUMBLE
  - 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. (John 3:3-5) TO ENTER GOD'S KINGDOM WE MUST *"BE BORN AGAIN," THAT IS, "BE BORN OF WATER AND OF THE SPIRIT"*

Conclusion:

1. As Jesus preached the kingdom of God, He gave His requirements for entering that special kingdom.
2. Are you complying with His requirements?