**The King and His Kingdom**

Evangelicals tend to talk about salvation in an highly individualistic sense. Jesus mostly spoke about the kingdom. “King” and “kingdom” occur 78 times in the gospel of Matthew, more than “save” and “salvation” in all of Paul’s letters put together (48 times). The kingdom of heaven is not a place, but a power. The kingdom is “the sovereign rule of God manifested in the person and work of Christ” (G. E. Ladd). **The kingdom of heaven is manifested –**

**1. In the ministry of Christ on *earth***

A. It was the focus of His *preaching*

Matthew 3:2; 4:17, 23; 10:7

B. It was evidenced by His *power*

Matthew 12:28

**2. In humble submission to Christ’s *rule***

Matthew 5:3; 18:1-4; 19:13-14

**3. In Christ’s commission to the *church***

A. In the *authority* of the church

Matthew 16:18-19 [also 18:15-18]

B. In the *preaching* of the church

Matthew 24:14

**4. In the consummation at Christ’s *coming***

Matthew 7:21-23; 8:11-12; 25:31-46

**Conclusion – The challenge of Palm Sunday**

Receive Christ as King on *His terms*

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. Did the Lord speak to you today about Himself and His ways? Did He show you a duty you need to perform or a promise you need to claim? What was either encouraging or challenging in the sermon?

2. What difference does it make in your thinking if you say –

* *Jesus has saved me, so I won’t go to hell,* or
* *Jesus has extended His kingdom-rule over my life*
* *I’m going to heaven in the future,* or
* *I belong to the kingdom of heaven now*
* *Jesus is my Savior,* or
* *Jesus is my King*
* *My job is to try to get people saved,* or
* *My job is to try to extend Christ’s kingdom*

Obviously, it is not either/or. It is both/and. However, have half of those statements been largely missing from your Christian vocabulary?

3. Christ’s victory includes the salvation of individuals and the establishment of His kingdom (the manifestation of His sovereign rule) over all the earth. What do the living creatures and the twenty-four elders celebrate in the following passages?

Revelation 5:8-10

Revelation 11:15-17