

Study #5: Discipleship (The King and His Kingdom)

1. Acts 28:31 The Kingdom of God is led by Christ the King

“He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance.”

* The Good News includes the Reign and Rule of King Jesus!

2. Old Testament Prophecies regarding the Coming of a Spiritual King and His Kingdom:

A- Daniel 2:44 *“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.*

B- Micah 5:2 *But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”*

D- Zechariah 9:9 *Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

3. New Testament Fulfillment of God’s Kingdom:

31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” Luke 1: 31-32

4. The King and His Expectations: Discipleship Luke 14: 25 - 33

* vs. 25 Discipleship is the response Jesus expects of those who truly believe in him.

* vs. 25. “Hate” father and mother, etc.= Language of Allegiance and Choice. Our upmost allegiance is to Jesus above all others, including our “own life”, our own way of doing things.

* vs. 28-30. The decision to become Jesus’ disciple must carefully considered before entering into a covenant with him.

Vs. 31– 33 Just as an outnumbered army must submit to its conquering king completely, so too we must completely surrender to Jesus as our King in becoming his disciple.

5. Denial of Self, Cross-bearing, Following: Luke 9: 23-24

23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it .

5. John 13: 34-35. Disciples love other disciples as Jesus loved.

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

5. Matthew 28: 18—20. The King's Plan to Reach the World with the Gospel.

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- A) Jesus has all authority- He is the King of the whole world, and the spiritual world!
- B) Jesus wants all men and women to be his disciples (followers, apprentices).
- C) Baptism of Disciples (Those who have made Jesus Lord— Acts 2: 36-41).
- D) Teach to obey everything- a lifetime of learning to obey.

Application: Have you chosen to make Jesus your King (Lord)? Are you his disciple (follower) according to the scriptures?

Closing Thought:

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matt. 11: 28-30

Following Jesus is difficult. Carrying one's cross, denial of self, self-less love, total surrender, reaching out to others. Yet, Jesus' way is "easy" in that it is the right life for us. The world's way brings heartache and turmoil, but Jesus' way brings rest for our souls! Come to Jesus the benevolent King!