



# theridgechurch

## **LIFEgroup Discussion Questions**

**August 8, 2010**

**Matthew's Gospel: The King and His Kingdom**

### **Read Matthew 4.12-25**

1. What is the kingdom of heaven (God)?
2. When we refer to the *old age* what kingdom are we speaking of? Use 2 Corinthians 4.4 and Ephesians 2.1-3 to help answer and define this kingdom and age. What are the characteristics of this kingdom?
3. What is present as Jesus comes in His first coming (Luke 17.20-21)?
4. Define the tension that is present as a result. What two ages are present at the same time?

A closer look at the tension as we live in the overlap of *the old age* and *the age to come*:

- We know that Christ already purchased our healing (1 Peter 2:24; Matthew 8:17), but we still groan with sickness (Romans 8:23; 2 Corinthians 4:16).
- We have already passed from death to life (1 John 3:14), but we still die (1 Corinthians 15:26).
- We already have the sanctifying Spirit as a down payment of our inheritance (Ephesians 1:14), but the war between flesh and Spirit goes on every day (Galatians 5:16–18).
- We have already been acquitted of all sin in Christ (Romans 5:1), but must go on every day praying, "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us" (Matthew 6:12).
- We already have our citizenship in the kingdom of God (Philippians 3:20), but for now must still submit in measure to the rulers of this world (Romans 13:1).

In a word, every blessing of the age to come is already ours in Christ (Ephesians 1:3), but God wills for us to come into our inheritance patiently. According to Acts 14:22 Paul taught all his new believers, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom" (Acts 14:22; Matthew 7:14; Mark 10:24). It is God's way to make us "fit for the kingdom" (2 Thessalonians 1:5).

5. What will bring the end to the *old age*?
6. What is the difference between how Jesus will come in His first coming compared to His second coming?
7. What should our response to the kingdom of heaven dawning be? Read Mark 1.15; Matthew 4.17-22.
8. How does the apostle Paul define this great transformation? Read Colossians 1.13-14. What else changes? Read Colossians 1.15-20 and Isaiah 61.1-3.
9. Does your life reflect one who is living for the kingdom of heaven (God)? What needs to change?

### **Pray**

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