

## Entering the Kingdom

Jesus had many things to say about entering the kingdom. In the gospel of Matthew He likens it to: entering a narrow gate, building a house upon a rock, being converted and becoming as little children. In the gospel of Mark He said, repent and believe the gospel. In the gospel of John He said, ye must be born again.

Entering the kingdom is of such immense value that we should be willing to sacrifice anything for it. A young man came to Jesus and said, “. . . Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?” The end of the story records that the young man went away with sorrow in his heart, for he had great possessions. He was not willing to forsake all and follow Jesus – he wanted his riches more than he wanted eternal life.

In relation to this story Jesus said: “Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.” When his disciples heard such words come from the lips of Jesus they were exceedingly amazed at His statement. With deep concern within their hearts they asked: “Who then can be saved.”

While Jesus was beholding their bewilderment, He replied to their question by saying: “With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.” Which is the whole point – to enter the kingdom by our own effort is impossible; it takes the renewing power of God to make us new people and establish us in His kingdom.

Man must be born from above, and this implies something beyond the reach of man within his own self. But “with” God it is possible to be born from above and enter the kingdom!

When by the grace of God one enters the kingdom, that person is converted, born again, made new, a whole new life begins. The newness of life is not an option, but a fact. If there is no newness of life, regardless of what one may say, that person has not entered the kingdom, they still remain in the kingdom of darkness.

Scripture: King James Version: Matthew 7:13-14, 24-27; 18:3; 19:16-26; Mark 1:14-15; John 3:3.

Jerry W. Arnold  
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