



# KINGDOM CHARACTER

“THE KING IS COMING”

MATTHEW 3:1-12

## I. INTRODUCTION: KINGDOM CHARACTER SERIES...SERMON ON THE MOUNT

### A. Context: Malachi 4

1. Jews have rejected God’s authority as their King (Isa. 63:10)
2. The theocracy of God has been silent for 400 years to Matthew
3. The Sun of righteousness will dawn soon...(4:2)
4. A supernatural messenger will be His forerunner (4:5-6)
  - a. To turn Israel from her apostasy (2 Cor. 7:10)
  - b. To turn hearts towards Truth...Jesus is bringing a new kingdom
    - i. An internal and eternal kingdom (Lk. 17:21)
    - ii. A kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy (Ro. 14:17)
      - a) Empowered by the Holy Spirit (Ro. 5:5; Jn. 16:8)
      - b) Offered by Christ the King (Mt. 4:17)...on His terms only

### B. Calling to nationwide repentance, brokenness, contriteness (Isa. 66:1-2; Mal. 3:1-3)

## II. INSTRUCTION: MT. 3:1-12

### A. “In those days”...judgment is coming! (v1)

1. John means “Jehovah is gracious”
2. Came preaching after no prophets for 400 years...in the wilderness
  - a. Not in Jerusalem...
  - b. “Come and see”...hungry for truth/God? (Mt. 5:6)

### B. “Repent!”...simple gospel (Acts 13:24; 2 Cor. 11:3)...change your religious minds...(v2)

1. The kingdom is at hand...at every Jewish orthodox gathering today, a place is set for Elijah who called Israel to repent (I Kg. 18)
  - a. When Jewish baby boys are circumcised, a chair is there for Elijah
  - b. The anticipation is that he precedes the Messiah...be ready at all times!
2. Great calling from the greatest man (11:11)...the King’s personal herald!
  - a. Cf. Acts 10:37-38
  - b. Preaching loudly, powerfully anointed (“keruso”) – Lk. 1:17
  - c. Fulfilling his calling (Mt. 17:11-13)...radical calling, radical message
    - i. Change from religion to relationship...“you have heard, but I tell you”...
    - ii. Change from sin to righteousness...“for verily I say unto you...repent”
    - iii. Change from tradition to truth (15:6)
    - iv. Change from pride to brokenness (Acts 2:38)
3. And just as the herald is rejected, so will be the King he represents!

- a. John is beheaded for telling the truth (Lk. 7:23, 35)
- b. Jesus is crucified for telling truth (Jn. 14:6)
- 4. King is coming...an eternal kingdom is offered (Acts 14:22; 2 Peter 1:11)
  - a. Matthew uses phrase "kingdom of heaven" 32 times
  - b. Only gospel writer to use the phrase
  - c. The Messiah had to be King, not subservient to their religious preferences
  - d. Failure to repent meant severe judgment (Mt. 12:38-41)...accountability
- C. "For this is he" ...a man on a divine mission! (v3)
  - 1. An urgent cry...matter of life and death...
  - 2. Prepare ye the way of the Lord! (Isa. 40:4-5)
- D. A humble servant-messenger (v4)...Jn. 3:30
  - 1. Utter dependency (2 Kg. 1:8)...filled with Spirit from the womb (Lk. 1:15-16)
  - 2. Camel's hair, locusts, wild honey...(Ro. 8:32)
- E. Commoners came (v5-6)...leaving the religious show of Jerusalem
  - 1. Humble, repentant (1 Pet. 5:5-6)
  - 2. Jews were not baptized as a rule, confessing sins yet!
  - 3. Reserved for Gentiles (converts)
- F. But...Satan's sons show up too (v7-12)...war!
  - 1. Generation of vipers...deadly religious (v7)...looked like dead branches on ground
    - a. Remember Paul on Malta
    - b. Acts 28
  - 2. Wrath is coming on them (70AD); 2 Tim. 3:5
  - 3. Demands fruits of repentance (v8)...Jas. 2:17; Jn. 15:6
  - 4. Abraham's kids...riding on his coattails for salvation...lived for traditions (15:2-9)
    - a. Legalists -Pharisees
    - b. Liberals -Sadducees - aristocratic fat cats
    - c. All religious politicians, seeking favor with Rome to lessen stress, living only for the present...using God for own agendas! (Mt. 23:33)...heading to hell!
    - d. Ax at root of Judaism's tree (v10)
  - 5. Need baptized by Jesus' fire! (v11)...Ps. 18:28
    - a. Fire drove snakes out of the fields (Mt. 12:30)
    - b. Cleansing time for God's house (I Peter 4:17)
    - c. His wheat will be protected on His floor (13:47-50)
    - d. Chaff will be burned with unquenchable fire (v12)
    - e. Mt. 25:46
- G. The King will be crowned soon...(Rev. 4:12; 19:11-16)

- III. INSIGHT: KINGDOM PRINCIPLES FOR DAILY LIVING (LUKE 17:21)...11 principles from Luke...
- A. The kingdom's gospel must be preached (Lk. 4:43; 9:2; 16:16)...matter of life and death!
  - B. The blessings start with humility and teach-ability (6:20; 18:16-17)
  - C. The principles bring good news to those who submit to the King (8:1, 10)
  - D. Kingdom power is potential healing power (9:11; 10:9)
  - E. Demands perseverance as proof of belief (9:62)...loyalty to the King!
  - F. Demands accountability for what you've heard (10:11; 12:48)...love for the King (7:47)
  - G. Kingdom power is obvious to those seeking truth (11:20; 21:31)...open our eyes Lord!
  - H. King guarantees all needs will be met (12:31) as he takes care of His own children
  - I. There are only 2 kingdoms: Satan's (hell); Jesus' (heaven)...(13:28)
  - J. The King offers sweet fellowship at His table for His servants (14:15); daily and eternally!
  - K. Hard to be rich and love the King (18:24-25)...almost impossible!