



Discussion Guide
August 12, 2018
Questions for Study

1. When you think of heaven - what pictures come to mind? Where do those images come from?
2. What do you make of the biblical passages that show heaven and earth as "overlapping" spaces? Is this a new concept for you? What are its implications? Genesis 28:10-17, Exodus 3:1-6, Exodus 19:9-12.
3. Is the idea of heaven and earth rejoining at the end of the biblical story a new concept for you? Read Revelation 21-22 and discuss how it differs from popular conceptions of the end of the world.
4. Before you heard the sermon, how you would have described the Kingdom of Heaven? How did the message shape your thinking?
5. In Matt 6:33, Jesus says "seek first the Kingdom of God". On a scale of 1-10, how hard would you say you are searching for the Kingdom? Why?
6. John described two problems with viewing the gospel primarily as a ticket to heaven when you die.

- The pay off is disconnected with this life.
- The pay off is a place you go rather than a person that you are near.

Do you feel either of those are similar to the way you think about Christianity's "pay off"?

7. Describe a person that you don't think likes you and how that affects how you interact with them. John mentioned that sometimes our image of God is skewed. We think he has "his grumpy pants" on. In your honest moments, what are some things about your experiences with God that make you less excited about pursuing him?
8. Jesus said in John 15:15 - I no longer call you servants because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends. Do you feel a close personal friendship with Jesus or does it seem more distant?
9. John said that the Kingdom comes primarily into our life through the Holy Spirit. Do you feel like you are pursuing the Holy Spirit? Why or why not? What's something you are uncomfortable about?
10. In Matt 6:9-10, Jesus instructs us to pray. He authorizes us to call down heaven into our world, our lives. Have you ever thought about this prayer that way? Why or why not?
11. When we call down heaven into our lives, the best part of heaven is his presence. Describe a time when you sensed God's presence in the miraculous?
12. Read Mark 9:23 - All things are possible to him who believes. Do you resonate with this? Why or why not?
13. Describe a time when you sensed God's presence the mess (the hardships of life)? The mundane? (the ordinary parts of life)?
14. If the gospel is that the Kingdom of God has arrived and the overlap of heaven and earth has begun, what in your life would change?

Key for Sermon Notes

1) EXAMINE OUR Gospel

- What was the gospel that Jesus preached?
Mark 1:14-15 Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The Kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news."
- What's the Kingdom of God?
It's the OVERLAP!
Heaven is not so much a place that you go as a person that you are near. Heaven is nearness to God's Presence and everything that flows from that (his rule, goodness, power, resources, etc). Hell is separation from God's Presence. 2 Thes 1:9
- Overlap of Heaven and Earth was always God's Vision
Bookends of the Bible
Gen 1-2 Garden of Eden
Rev 21:10-27 New Jerusalem

2. Seek it AS OUR Treasure

- Matt 6:33 Seek first his kingdom...
- Matt 13:44 The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.
- Two problems with thinking that the main thing Christianity has to offer is a ticket to get to heaven when you die.
 1. The payoff is disconnected with this life.
 2. The payoff is a place you go rather than a person you are near.
John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends.
James 4:8 Draw near to me and I will draw near to you.
Jer 29:13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.
Luke 12:31-32 But seek His kingdom... Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.

3. EMBRACE THE Holy Spirit

- Jesus tells us that the presence of the Holy Spirit in us is better than the presence of Jesus beside us.
John 16:7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.
1 Cor 6:19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you..
- God's plan is that we experience the Kingdom Overlap primarily through holy spirit.
Rom 14:17 The Kingdom of God is ... in the Holy Spirit
Luke 11:13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! (Note the context of this verse. Luke 11 starts with the Lord's Prayer calling down heaven. Then Jesus immediately tells a story illustrating the importance of bold asking and then Luke 11:13. This is all one related thought about praying for the Kingdom and getting the Holy Spirit.)

4. CALL DOWN Heaven in Prayer

- Matt 6:9-10 This, then, is how you should pray:
- Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
- Call down heaven in all the circumstances of our lives ... in the Miraculous, the Mess and the Mundane
Mark 9:23 All things are possible to him who believes.
2 Cor 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.