

# Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand

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Mat 3:1-3 ESV In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."** 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

## BEHOLD YOUR GOD

Isa 40:3-9 ESV A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare **the way of the LORD**; make straight in the desert **a highway for our God**. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 And **the glory of the LORD shall be revealed**, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but **the word of our God will stand forever**. 9 Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, **"Behold your God!"**

## The message of the kingdom of heaven - is a call to follow

Mat 4:17-25 ESV From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."** 18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, **"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."** 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

### **The message "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"**

- Is a call to follow Him
- Is a call to let Him to MAKE YOU what He wants you to be
  - **The making happens when the following begins**
- What He makes you is aligned with His purpose - fishers of men
- It is a call for laborers that will go forth and call others to stop and consider a new king
- There was an immediate, radical obedience - leaving and following
  - Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come, ***your will be done***, on earth as it is in heaven.
  - Matt 7:21 **"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.**

## The "kingdom of heaven is at hand" means the power of the king is present

23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and **proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom** and ***healing every disease*** and ***every affliction*** among the people. 24 So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him ***all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed***

**them.** 25 And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

- Matt 12:28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

## Matt 9 - the Kingdom of God on Display

### **Healing and Forgiveness of Sins**

- Mat 9:1-38 ESV And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. 2 And behold, some people brought to him **a paralytic, lying on a bed.** And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, **"Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven."** 3 And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." 4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5 For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? 6 **But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins**"--he then said to the paralytic--"Rise, pick up your bed and go home." 7 And he rose and went home. **8 When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.**

### **A call to follow Him - a physician for the sick - these are kingdom issues**

- 9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, **"Follow me."** And he rose and followed him. 10 And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many **tax collectors** and **sinners** came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 But when he heard it, he said, **"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.** 13 Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For **I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.**"

### **The kingdom of God is new wine and must be put into new wineskins - law and the prophets were until John, NOW The Kingdom of God is being preached**

- 14 Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" 15 And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. 16 No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. 17 Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

### **The king has power over death - Behold your God**

- 18 While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, **"My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live."** 19 And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples...(skip to 23 for a second)...23 And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, 24 he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at

him. 25 But when the crowd had been put outside, **he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. 26 And the report of this went through all that district.**

#### **A woman with a discharge of blood for 12 years touches the king and is healed**

- 20 And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, 21 for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well." 22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well.

#### **The king touches two blind men and they are healed**

- 27 And as Jesus passed on from there, **two blind men** followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." 28 When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." 29 Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." 30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, "See that no one knows about it." **31 But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.**

#### **A demon-oppressed man who was mute is set free by the king**

- 32 As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him. 33 And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, **"Never was anything like this seen in Israel."**

#### **The Pharisees reject Him, yet he continues proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom**

- 34 But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." 35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and **proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.**

**The burden of the King - the crowds have been ravaged by a different kingdom for too long...it is time to bring the kingdom of God, the good news to set them free - Behold your God -- We need laborers**

- 36 When he saw the crowds, **he had compassion for them**, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, **"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;** 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

#### **The continuous spread of the kingdom of God requires laborers**

- Mat 10:1-8 ESV And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.....7 **And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'** 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.