

## “Finding Priceless JOY”

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The Kingdom of God was an expectation longed for by the first century Jews to whom Jesus was speaking.

They were familiar with the promise God gave to them in Isaiah 11:6, 7:

(6) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (7) Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

They were expecting a great king, greater than King David. Their hope was that a king, who was a political and military leader, would make everything better. We often do the same thing.

***“The Kingdom of God will not arrive on Air Force One.”*** Chuck Colson

Here is the key to understanding these parables: ***The kingdom has come in the person of Jesus; in his words and in his deeds. Only faith can recognize that Jesus is the King. Wherever Jesus reigns in a human heart, there the Kingdom of God has drawn near.***

Only the kingdom of God is eternal and only this treasure has the power to change lives for all eternity. Jesus shows us that the kingdom of God is power to heal, forgive, and set free those in bondage to sin.

Jesus said, *“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you”* Matthew 6:33. There is no greater treasure to seek than Jesus Christ.

The joy of knowing Jesus and living under his rule is priceless.

God loves you. Jesus died for you to forgive your sins. And he has a wonderful plan for your life.

