

SECRETS OF SUCCESS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Matt 25:1-13

INTRODUCTION:

- A. All right thinking people want to be successful in their life here on this earth
- B. And surely all people who have an interest in spiritual things want to be successful in the kingdom of God
- C. Someone may ask, "just where or what is the kingdom of God?"
 - 1. Kingdom means the right to rule or have authority
 - 2. Jesus said the kingdom is within you Lk 17:20,21
 - 3. The kingdom, then, is anywhere God's will is obeyed
- D. Jesus shows in Matt 16:18,19 that the kingdom and the church are one and the same entity, therefore the church is an assembly of those who are doing God's will
- E. Let's notice some principles which Jesus taught that Assures success in this relationship of the kingdom

DISCUSSION:

I. ENTRANCE INTO THE KINGDOM REQUIRES A NEW BIRTH Jhn 3:3-7

- A. One must first enter into the kingdom to be successful in it
- B. Jesus said one can't even see the kingdom unless he is born again
- C. the word "born" includes the whole process: begetting Incubation and the coming forth
 - 1. The one to be born is begotten by the Spirit
 - 2. The period of incubation lasts from the time one first receives the Word until he comes forth from the waters of baptism thereby entering the kingdom
 - 3. Spiritual embryology includes faith Rom 10:17; Heb 11:6; repentance Lk 13:3; and confession of faith in Christ Rom 10:9,10
 - 4. Baptism is the act of coming forth after having died to sin Jhn 3:5; 1Pet 3:21; Rom 6:3,4

II. ENTER WITH SINGLE-MINDEDNESS Matt 6:33

- A. How much do you want success in the kingdom?
- B. Concentration, then, is the key to attaining Phil 3:13,14; Acts 11:23

- C. give the kingdom priority over everything else in our lives Phil 3:7,8

III. ENTER WITH SELF-ABANDON Matt 16:25

- A. Self abandon brings joy
 - 1. An athlete in a game forgets self
 - 2. In the game he finds the life that brings him the greatest joy
- B. "For My sake" is the key to the verse
 - 1. Like the athlete, "put all you have into the battle" recognizing it is for Christ
 - 2. You will lose the life you might have lived Phil 3:7,8
 - 3. However, you will have a more abundant life Jhn 10:10
 - 4. By dying in His service, entrance is gained into eternal life Rev 14:13; 2Pet 1:10-11

IV. ENTER WILLING TO RENDER HUMBLE SERVICE

Matt 23:11,12

- A. There is no room for selfish ambition
 - 1. Paul illustrated this: "I beseech you ... brethren" Rom 12:1
 - 2. Jesus' words also illustrate: "Be not ye called Rabbi - Father - Master" Matt 23:8-10
- B. Note again, the definition of kingdom of God: where God's will is done
- C. Note Paul's attitude 1Cor 15:10 "By the grace of God I am what I am"
- D. Personal boasting is excluded Rom 3:27

CONCLUSION

- A. Enter with a determination to be faithful Matt 25:21
- B. Only the faithful will be rewarded in eternity
- C. Those that have done the Father's will Matt 7:21
- D. The ultimate success is a home in heaven with God