

# Heaven on Earth

## Part 3

We have been talking about God's desire for the Kingdom of Heaven to invade kingdoms of this world. The Kingdom of Heaven is the rule and reign of God beyond his creation. It is physical but spiritual. God knows how to navigate between Heaven and Earth. Heaven seems so distant but yet so close.

### The Eclipse

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

The Heavens are so far away but yet so close!

This is not a freak of nature. God is reminding us of his creative power. We usually take the sun and moon for granted – they are there every day and we need them. For a solar eclipse to occur when the sun is 400 times bigger than the moon, the moon must be 400 times further away from the sun – it is - this is not just a lucky coincidence.

I love what Jesus told his followers at tomb of Lazarus... If you believe, you will see the glory of God (Jn 11:4)

Text: Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

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### The Joy of the Kingdom of Heaven

Jesus says something very similar to Paul:

Luke 12:22-23 And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.

Luke 12:29-34 do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. **30** For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. **31** Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. **32** "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

The Heavenly Father's agenda and joy is to give us the kingdom!

The kingdom is not a physical realm but rather it is the reign of God through Christ, it is Jesus triumphing over every evil thing that stands between you and your true identity, as sons and daughters of God.

The Joy of the Kingdom is a pleasure that transcends the natural earthy world. It is beyond what you can see, taste, touch, and feel. Its not food and drink....

**33** Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

There are treasures to be had which are more valuable in the kingdom than the belongings and experiences you find pleasure in on this earth.

## **The Kingdom Manifested with Power Brings Great Joy**

In Luke 10 Jesus sends out 72 of his followers two by two.

Jesus sent them out on a Kingdom Experiment. An experience with Kingdom Power

Note: when you go don't take any money or food with you!

Luke 10:8,9 "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. **9** Heal the sick who are there and tell them, '**The kingdom of God has come near to you.**' (see it God seems so far away but yet, he is so close.)

Luke 10:17-21 NIV The seventy-two **returned with joy** and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." **18** He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. **19** I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. **20** However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

**21** At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

### **What was hidden? The hidden treasure of the Kingdom and its Power!**

The disciples returned with joy because they experienced the first-hand knowledge of who they were meant to be... their true identity... sons of God who carried power!

They didn't come back talking about the great meals, fantastic wine or wonderful houses they stayed in... They came back talking about the power of the Kingdom!

And this thrilled Jesus! At this time He was full of Joy (v. 21) because the kingdom and its power was manifesting in ordinary people.

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## Discovering Your Hidden Treasure

Mt 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

I don't want us to make a big deal about all the details in this story. Parables usually have one main point. And the point here is not that the kingdom is bought, but **that if it costs you everything you have, it's worth it.**

People try to find Joy in the things they treasure. But other treasures lose their value! **Not the Kingdom!**

**The worth of having God ruling** over you and, for you, over everything else.... It's not hard to see why that is so valuable.

The man sold everything he had, and he did it with joy. *“In his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”*

The kingdom of God is so valuable that losing everything on earth, but getting the kingdom, is a happy trade-off. That's the main point.

*The kingdom of God is so valuable that losing everything on earth, but getting the kingdom, is a happy trade-off.*

John Piper

If God is ruling over all things for you... then there will Joy!

- If God is ruling over everything for you and your joy, then all things must be working for your good no matter how painful.
- If you really believe, that in the end God will triumph over all evil and all pain.

This is Something to Treasure and take Joy in! Kingdom Treasure

- If you don't have it, seek it --- if you have lost it --- seek it again!

Luke 15:8-10 "... woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? **9** And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' **10** Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

If you have lost the valuable coin of the kingdom, seek it diligently.

Get right with God.

The Joy of the Kingdom is near you.

Treasuring King Jesus and his rule over our lives results in true Kingdom Joy.

Your Joy is found in what you treasure.

It produces:

Joy in the midst of earthly sorrow

Joy in the midst of earthly failures

Joy in the midst of earthy uncertainties

And when you have found that Joy Again! Share it!

Like the woman who called her friends and neighbors and she shared her joy! We must do the same.

We cannot keep joy of the Kingdom to ourselves.

- Horded joy rots!
- Shared joy increases!

### **The Joy of Heaven**

Luke 15:7 NCV In the same way, I tell you there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes his heart and life, than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to change.