

**#1: "The Kingdom of God"**

Series: What would Jesus do... today? - The Foundational Teachings of Jesus for Today's World

**A. Why was Jesus so influential?**

1. He was a great teacher & ethicist
2. He was a great \_\_\_\_\_
3. Christianity says, "Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_."

- CS Lewis in *Mere Christianity*, "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Jesus, that "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." Since he claimed to be God, he was either a madman, a liar, or God himself.

**B. 5 Categories of Related Scriptures:**

1. The Trial (he was crucified for blasphemy); He Claimed Equality with God; Jesus received \_\_\_\_\_ as God & accepted it; other people talked about Him being God; Indirect evidence - forgiveness, life, & authority over the earth (walking on water, calming the storm, resurrection, etc)

**C. Jesus' Message - Mt 4:17 - "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand."****D. 3 Interpretations**

1. The kingdom of God is about \_\_\_\_\_, caution, and warning
  - a. "\_\_\_\_\_! for the kingdom of God is at hand"
2. "The future kingdom is at hand (it's near, just around the corner). Thus, we must keep the \_\_\_\_\_ in view (& our priorities in order) to be prepared & ready for the day when Jesus returns."
  - a. Also is encouragement to remain faithful (your reward is coming soon!)
3. The kingdom concerns our experiences with God in \_\_\_\_\_ reality, such that God is literally in our very midst, guiding, empowering, sustaining, helping, comforting, healing & offering grace through the ins & outs of life
  - a. Grasping the nature & presence of the Kingdom of God will help you discover your intended purpose & the "most real" reality & life God intended for you from the beginning
    1. The birds of the air (Mt 6)
    2. The flowers of the field (Mt 6)

**E. The Condition - You can only experience God's Kingdom, if you totally & completely yield yourself to the \_\_\_\_\_**

1. Definition - The Kingdom of God exists wherever God is reigning as King & where you are building up *His* kingdom

**F. The Reward - Matthew 6:33: "When you seek 1<sup>st</sup> God's kingdom & His righteousness, all these things will be \_\_\_\_\_ unto you."**