

Matthew 8 – The Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew 4:12-17

Fallen Condition Focus (FCF): Like the Jews in Jesus' time, we misunderstand what the Kingdom of Heaven is.

Point 1: What it's not

- Kingdom of heaven is not an earthly kingdom
 - Political kingdom (mistake of the Jews)
 - Messiah - King who could bring material prosperity
 - King who would overthrow Rome
 - Jesus taught that the kingdom of Heaven was spiritual
- The mistake of seeing the USA as the New Jerusalem, kingdom of heaven
 - Are we a Christian nation?
 - Political victories/parties too closely tied to advance of church

Second point: What it is

- Kingdom of God is presently established on earth
 - Kingdom has come, perfect tense – completed action with enduring sense
 - Jesus sees in his ministry an inauguration of the heavenly kingdom
- This is the time that we live in, church is empowered to advance the kingdom of heaven

Third point: What it will be

- The now and the not yet
- We live in a time where the kingdom of heaven is established, but only partially
- Kingdom of heaven is completed at judgment day