

The Genetic Power of the Gospel

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 13:31-32.

B. The gospel of the kingdom is not far off from the word of the kingdom.

C. When the gospel moves in, it changes the neighborhood.

II. If the gospel is a seed then the DNA of the seed is the kingdom.

A. As the gospel seed is planted in the soil of the lost, the DNA of the kingdom starts to take root. (Isaiah 61:1)

B. The gospel applies to every context because it meets the needs of all. (Romans 5:12)

III. When the kingdom of God is at work, righteousness, justice, love and faithfulness follows. (Psalm 89:14)

A. Righteousness and justice refer to conformity to God's will and the correction of what is wrong, respectively.

1. Justice is truth in action. (Micah 6:8)

2. Righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.

3. These result in a shelter for people.

B. Love and faithfulness are the experiences of the kingdom of God. People need a place where they can receive truth with grace. (John 17:17, 8:32)

IV. The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17)

A. Peace is the product of the kingdom in operation in a place, which is wholeness. (Romans 10:15, Ephesians 6:15)

B. The Spirit is key to experiencing God's joy.

V. The blessings of the kingdom.

A. Beauty out of ashes. The gospel of the kingdom takes broken dreams and redeems them. (Psalm 129:4)

B. A new identity of joy out of mourning. (Isaiah 61:10)

C. A garment of praise out of a spirit of heaviness. (Isaiah 43:3, Matthew 12)

V. The gospel of the kingdom transforms. (Isaiah 67:2, Isaiah 61:4)

Application questions:

1. Why should one expect a change in community when the gospel is being preached?

2. What aspects of the gospel's "DNA" stand out to you the most? What strikes you?

3. How would you respond to someone living a life of sin who claims that his sin is okay since Christ saved him? Explain.
