

THE I-THOU KINGDOM

¹⁷ for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 14:17 NASB

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

Matthew 13:44 NIV

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:45,46 NIV

- I. Nine I-Thou existential principles
 - A. living over knowing
 - B. Willing over thinking
 - C. The concrete over the abstract
 - D. The dynamic over the static
 - E. Love over law
 - F. The Personal over propositional
 - G. The individual over society
 - H. The subjective over the objective
 - I. The non-rational over the rational

II. What is God's I-Thou kingdom like?

A. A lost sheep found (Luke 15:3-7 NIV)

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

B. A lost coin found (Luke 15:8-10 KJV)

⁸ Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find [it]? ⁹ And when she hath found [it], she calleth [her] friends and [her] neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. ¹⁰ Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

C. A lost child found (Luke 15:11-24 NIV)

¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent

everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

- D. Life under God’s rule is a glad experience.
- E. 16 times, Jesus pronounced It blessed – happy.
- F. The gospel is always an invitation to happiness.
- G. To enter God’s kingdom is like attending a banquet.
- H. A great supper

- I. A wedding feast
 - J. It brings the intoxication of new wine.
 - K. To stumble upon the reign of God is like stumbling upon a treasure.
 - L. The kingdom of God is like finding a fortune.
 - M. The kingdom is like a connoisseur of jewels who, exploring the bazaars, finds suddenly the loveliest treasure ever seen and sells all his collections to buy it!
- III. The kingdom of God is....
- A. Righteousness - a life put right
 - B. Peace - a life at rest
 - C. Joy in the Holy Spirit - a life made radiant