

The Cost of the Kingdom! **5 Requirements to Enter God's Kingdom**

The Kingdom of God is a wonderfully complex entity!
It's here in the present but we'll enjoy it forever in Heaven.
It's within us but we demonstrate it outside and around us.
We can grasp it but it's beyond our understanding.
It's limitless and timeless but it's to be lived in now.
It comes from God but it works through us.
It's free but it costs us everything!

5 Requirements to Enter God's Kingdom **5 Bible characters – guess who and what:**

LOSS

Luke 18: 28-30 "Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!" **29** "I tell you the truth," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God **30** will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life."

No one who has LEFT ... We have to LEAVE in order to RECEIVE.

- Family & friends.
- Dreams & Desires.
- Ideals and Ideologies.
- Opportunities & Advancement.

HARDSHIP

Acts 14:21-23 " **21** They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, **22** strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. **"We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,"** they said. **23** Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust."

- The FRUIT of Hardship & Entrance = Christ working IN you and THROUGH you.
- Gospel preached.
- Miracles experienced.
- Disciples made!
- A new and better World is born.

OBEDIENCE

Matthew 7:21

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who **does the will** of my Father who is in heaven.

- Lip service is important but not enough.
- Personal relationship is vital but not enough.
- Obedience and service – DOES the WILL!

HUMILITY

Matthew 18:3

And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you **change and become** like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:4

Therefore, whoever **humbles himself** like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Change and Become indicates an expected, necessary and willful transformation.

Humility – self surrender – is a necessary requirement to even begin to understand God's Kingdom enough in order to be able to enter into it.

DETERMINATION to GET God's Kingdom!

Matthew 11:12

From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, **and forceful men lay hold of it.**

God's Kingdom IS constantly moving forward!

Forceful men grab it and get it!

Change your attitude and lifestyle and GO AFTER God's Kingdom!

So which one of these do you need today to fully enter God's Kingdom?

LOSS.

HARDSHIP.

OBEDIENCE.

HUMILITY.

DETERMINATION>