

Sermon Notes – October 11, 2015
“The God of Real Life Right Now”
Matthew 3:1-2, 4:12-17
Pastor Bill Hoffman

What comes to mind when you think of the word “kingdom”?

- Reflect upon Scot McKnight’s statement: “Jesus uses 'kingdom' for the society in which the Jesus Creed transforms life.” (*The Jesus Creed*, p. 123)

In addition to the passages above, **how do Matthew 6:10 and Luke 17:20-21 influence your understanding of what Jesus means by the kingdom?**

How did Jesus not only talk about but demonstrate the nearness of the kingdom of heaven?

- For example see Matthew 4:23-24.
- How is the nearness of the kingdom demonstrated in the lives of followers of Jesus today in our church?

Do people today generally see Jesus as smart when it comes to dealing with real life issues?

- Among those who don’t what would be some of their reasons?

Note that at the end of the Sermon on the Mount the people listening were said to be *amazed at his teaching*.

- Is this your response to Jesus’ teaching about how to live?
- To the extent that this is not the case, what about Jesus do you need to see, believe, or better understand to grow in *amazement* of Jesus’ understanding of real life?