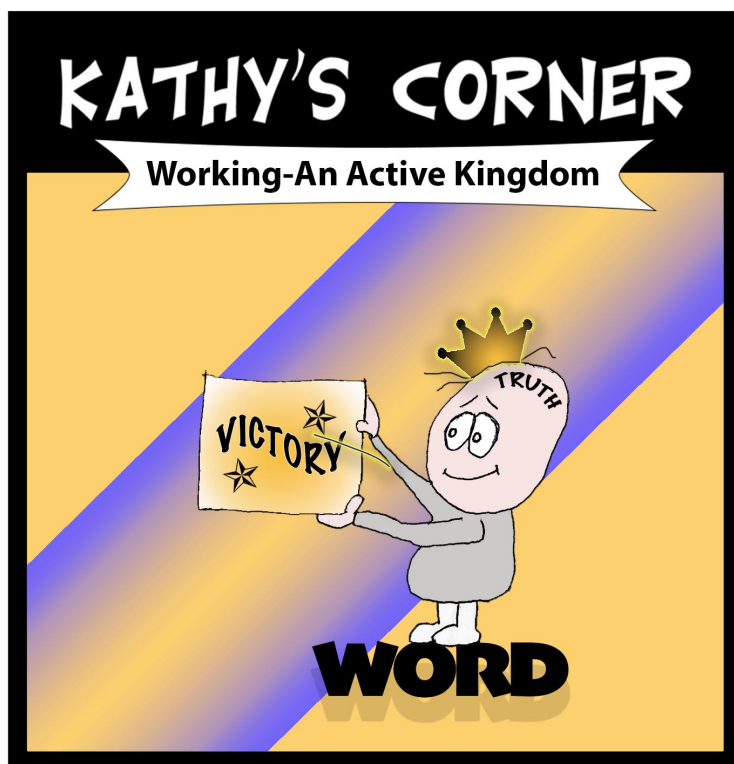


# Working

## An Active Kingdom

It really stood out to me this week how **activity is kingdom life**. This is emphasized over and over again in the gospel of Matthew and particularly in Matthew the tenth chapter, also many other scriptures support this, so I am biting off more than I can chew, but I will try to consolidate.

Several times Doug has brought up a portion of scripture that can be scary. The part about the separation of the sheep from the goats. The “goats” were telling the Lord all the things **they did in His name**, yet He told them to depart because **He never knew them**. Working the will of God—working in relationship to the Lord and out of that relationship and having right motives matters eternally.



**“For whoever *does the will of my Father* in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”** (Matthew 12:50 CSB) This is relationship!

**“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people *producing its fruit*.”** (Matthew 21:43 CSB) In verse 45 it says the chief priests and Pharisees knew He was speaking about them. The Lord expects fruit!

Being born from above—of the Spirit—is the enabling relationship—the Life necessary to produce the desired fruit. (Nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me.)

Matthew 11:12 CSB: **From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been suffering violence,[d] and the violent have been seizing it by force. (The footnote gives an alternate translation: *has been forcefully advancing*).** We know advancing His kingdom is a struggle!

Consider the necessity of Kingdom activity in the following portions from Matthew in the CSB:

14:15 **When evening came, the disciples approached him and said, “This place is deserted, and it is already late. Send the crowds away so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”**

14:16 **“They don’t need to go away,” Jesus told them. “*You give them something to eat.*”**

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16:27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will reward each **according to what he has done.**

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23:1-3 Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples: “The scribes and the Pharisees are seated in the chair of Moses. Therefore **do whatever they tell you, and observe it.** But don’t do what they do, because they don’t practice what they teach.

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24:46 Blessed is that servant whom the master finds **doing his job** when he comes.

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*The parable of the two sons:*

21:28-31 “What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘My son, **go work in the vineyard today.**’  
“He answered, ‘I don’t want to,’ but later he changed his mind and went. Then the man went to the other and said the same thing. ‘I will, sir,’ he answered, but he didn’t go. **Which of the two did his father’s will?”**

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The Great Commission tells us what to do.

**Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**  
(Matthew 28:19-20 CSB)

Then he said to them, “**Go** into all the world and **preach** the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will **drive out demons**; they will **speak in new tongues**; they will **pick up snakes**; if they should drink anything deadly, it will not harm them; they will **lay hands on the sick**, and they will get well.” (Mark 16:15-18 CSB)

Praise the Lord, He is with us always!

I know I am not teaching anything new here. You probably know all of this better than I do, but I just want to point out that the Kingdom of God is active even when it would seem passive. When we are the Light and the Salt we appear to be passive, but we are still working—advancing the Kingdom. When leaven is hidden in dough we cannot see moment to moment what is happening, but eventually it is all leavened. *God is working His will—always!* When Jesus was accused of breaking the Sabbath (See the whole story in John 5) **Jesus responded to them, “My Father is still working, and I am working also.”** This is why the Jews began trying all the more to kill him: Not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal to God.

Jesus replied, “**Truly I tell you, the Son is not able to do anything on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son likewise does these things. For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing,** (From John 5:17-19 CSB)

When we look at the Parable of the Sower we see that *it is what is done* with the seed, the Word, that matters. Some can hear the Word and the devil snatches it from their heart. Some can “receive it with joy” but not have a root, so they fall away when tested. Another hears, but worries and riches and pleasures choke it, so it doesn’t produce desirable fruit. **“And those like seed sown on good ground hear the word, welcome it, and produce fruit thirty, sixty, and a hundred times what was sown.”** (Mark 4:1-20 CSB) Notice it says “welcome it” not resist it in an attempt to justify themselves or their lifestyle.

It is what we *do* with the Word that matters. **Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn’t need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.** (2Timothy 2:15CSB)

There are many references to those *doing* Kingdom work. They can be *workmen* as in the verse above who have to know and study the word to present it properly. They can be *farmers* who plow, sow, water, or harvest. They can be *disciples* who follow their Lord in the way they live and speak. They can be *shepherds* who care for, lead and feed the flock. They can be *ambassadors* who represent with Kingdom authority. They can be *soldiers* who follow orders and are not entangled in the things of the world, or *servants* who follow orders and are on standby for their masters. **They can be warriors that are in the conflict to put the victory of the Messiah in place in each and every battle.** They can be any or all of the above, or serve other functions that I haven’t mentioned, all according to the will of the one true God. (*Counselors, intercessors, teachers, etc.—all cleansed vessels for His purposes*)

Lord, I thank you that we are included in those You have chosen with purpose. As You give us opportunities, may we fulfill them humbly with joy, knowing you are with us always to the end of the age.