



Week 3:

Big Investment, Big Payoff

Jesus tells us the Kingdom is like a hidden treasure or a valuable pearl. He challenges us to go "all in" -- the cost is great -- because the payoff is immensely high. God's dream for us is one of joy: joy in our hearts, in the world around us, and at the end of our lives.

If the kingdom of God potentially costs so much, why be part of it?

Well, it does cost a lot, but it also pays off big in many ways. Jesus was not shy about talking about this payoff, although over the centuries his promise of eternal life seems to be the one most remembered. But the kingdom of God is primarily a plan for this world, and as such, it has immediate payoffs here and now.

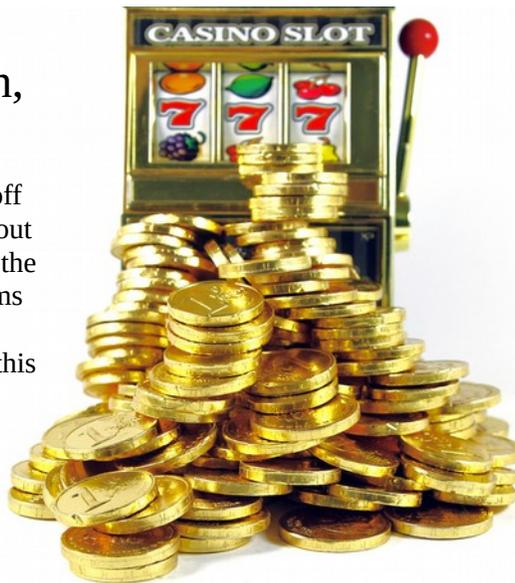
The first payoff is for Christians themselves. Jesus promised us what every human being is looking for: happiness, acceptance, and community....

[They] receive another thing that all humans crave: a sense of purpose, a mission worthy of their lives. This is no small thing in a world that many believe operates on the basis of the idea that whoever has the most things when he or she dies wins....

Christians also have a sense of relief that the world does not have to be and will not always be the way it is.... We have a plan and we are part of the plan. The good news that Christians preach is not only that God is going to bring about the world as it should be but also that we ourselves are part of that effort. Christians fully believe that we are part of the solution, even as we confess that we are also part of the problem....

There is another entity that gets a big payoff from the kingdom of God, and that's the world itself. The world needs a plan if it is not going to self-destruct.... The kingdom of God is a plan for the world as it should be and comes equipped with a group of people committed to help bring it about. This is indeed good news and a big payoff.

Gregory F. Augustine Pierce, *The World as It Should Be*



There is no such thing as low-cost Christianity. Following Jesus means swimming against the tide, renouncing evil and selfishness.

Pope Francis
@pontifex



Learn More on the Website:

The Cost of the Kingdom

Despite God's overflowing grace, really seeking the Kingdom is going to cost us. Delve a little deeper into this apparent paradox.

Joy-Filled Jackpot

Pope Francis' *Joy of the Gospel* teaches how the fruit of the Kingdom brings joy into our hearts, the world around us, and eternal life.

Songs From the Kingdom

Margaret Becker's "My Heaven" paints a picture of the big payoff; Francesca Battistelli's "We Are the Kingdom"; Starfield's rocker "The Kingdom."

Visit: <http://gospel.link/shouldbe3>