**THE KINGDOM**

**"The Initiation of the Kingdom"**

**Matthew 3:13-17**

ILLUS - (picture of NASA countdown clock at Cape Canaveral/Kennedy)

 Read Matthew 3:13-17

**I. Jesus initiating the Kingdom of God**

 **1. Intentionally pursuing Baptism**

 **2. Identification with Sinners**

 **3. Fulfillment of Righteousness**

 ***Isaiah 53:11, "Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities."***

 **4. Anticipation of His death, burial and resurrection.**

***Luke 12:50, "I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!"***

 **5. Visible approval of His Heavenly Father (vs. 16-17)**

***Isaiah 42:1, "Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations."***

**II. Reign and Rule of God:**

1. Jesus has chosen to use us to advance the Kingdom of God

2. We need to move from "prevent" to "consent"