Kingdom of God IV. Follow-up discussion

1. Gospel texts

*Kingdom of God:*

not located in any place or time
available here and now
a state of mind or of the heart
a way of relating to things/property and to people
a way of living and acting
this way demands a “change of course”: a turn-around in the mind and heart
what sort of way of living, relating, and acting?

*Attachments: Relation to property and kin:*

no attachments to property or people
no material possessions: provisions or defense
no money
no attachment to kin or family members
how can one live like this?

*Relation to other human beings*

this way of life presupposes a certain relation to other human beings
all have an equal status under God, especially all marginalized, weak, etc. have the same status as you
this is because we are all visitors and strangers in this world, no one has more rights than another, because all belongs to God
give what you have been given; it is your duty, not choice
e.xpect to receive from others; it is you right, not others’ choice
goods must circulate and be distributed to serve everybody’s needs, not be accumulated
community is the main focus

2. Modern interpretations of “Kingdom of God”

*Crossan* (all of the above, including):
non-violent resistance to commercialization and socio-economic injustices
movement from within the Jewish law that sees justice as economic-distributive: circulation of goods within the community, avoiding impoverishment, oppression, and enslavement of community members
Robinette (similar to Crossan; all of the above, including):
a movement from within the Jewish context: the idea of socio-economic justice in the Law and Prophets
Kingdom of God is an immediate experience of liberation from oppression, injustice, alienation
Kingdom of God is concrete reality that comes through action; it is performed
it bring about reconciliation within the community by restoring all (especially the marginalized) to the community

Nietzsche (similar):
Kingdom of God is here, within you, not promised or something to come
it is a state and experience of the heart
Kingdom of God is a new practice, acting differently, in particular by not resisting and by treating everybody equally
a new way of living and feeling (“in heaven”)  
Jesus’s program is much like Buddha’s: no attachments to things or people; no violence, harm to others, or resistance (ahimsa); a liberating experience of selflessness (“no self”) that can be achieved now (nirvana)