

## Kingdom Come

(Luke 17:20-37)

### Introduction

1. [Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to experience the power of the gospel & impact the culture.
2. What would you want to know about the future?
  - a. Would you want to know when & how the world will end?
  - b. [Matt 24:36] No man knows the day or hour except God, but Jesus does teach us what to expect.

### In Jesus, the Kingdom is here [Luke 17:20-21]

1. [20] The Pharisees want to know when the prophesied Kingdom of God is coming.
  - a. They already have their own answer (seeing selves as experts on spiritual matters) & want to test Jesus.
  - b. They know the Old Testament prophecies & are looking/waiting for a taste of the Kingdom of Heaven.
  - c. In their man-made theology, they want to predict/manage the Kingdom based on cosmological signs.
  - d. We too look/wait for a taste of Heaven, but try to predict/control how we experience it on our own terms.
2. [20-21a] Jesus teaches: You can't predict & manage the Kingdom's arrival by observing signs & events on your terms.
  - a. Aren't there signs of the end of the age? There are early warning signs (famine, earthquakes, wars, persecution, false prophets & anti-Christ), but they do not signal the end (cf. Matt 24:6-8).
  - b. We won't be able to predict when the Day of the Lord will come (cf. 1 Thess 5:2).
3. [21b] The Kingdom is already "in the midst of you."
  - a. Not "inside you"; Jesus wouldn't say that the Kingdom is in the disbelieving Pharisees that He's addressing.
  - b. The Kingdom is here in your midst; it has arrived & is found in the person of Jesus.
    - i. His coming inaugurates the coming of the Kingdom.
  - c. If you want to find & experience the Kingdom of God, it's found in its King & how you respond to Him.
4. Application: What's that "sign" you are looking for to know God's Kingdom has arrived in your life?
  - a. All of us are looking for a taste of the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. The Kingdom is already here, & it is found in a person named Jesus.

### The Kingdom is here and not yet [Luke 17:22-25]

1. Jesus teaches His followers: The Kingdom is here & not yet
  - a. [22] They will long for the days when Jesus was in their midst, & they won't see the Kingdom fulfilled yet.
    - i. "Son of Man": Jesus' favorite title; the eternal King with the authority of God (cf. Dan 7:13-14).
  - b. Jesus won't always be physically present
    - i. He prophesied His death & resurrection (cf. Luke 9:22); He must leave them for a time, including returning to Heaven.
  - c. Followers will long for Him because they will suffer for His sake (cf. Luke 9:23-24).
  - d. But King Jesus will return in glory to fulfill every promise of the Kingdom (cf. John 13:1; 14:2; 16:7).
2. There will be a delay between the King's first & second coming
  - a. First coming: Spiritually save us through His death & resurrection for eternal life, but we still physically die.
  - b. Second coming: His return & fulfillment of the Kingdom of God & all its promises (cf. Rev 21:4).
  - c. Why the delay? To give as many as possible the opportunity to respond to King Jesus (cf. Matt 13:29-30).
3. [23-25] Jesus teaches His followers not to be discouraged or deceived.

- a. [23] He warns against following deceivers who pretend to secretly reveal the Kingdom.
- b. [24] Jesus' return will be clear, dramatic & visible.
- c. When Jesus returns, everyone everywhere will know (cf. Matt 24:30; Rev 1:7).
- d. [25] Before that happens, the most significant event in all history must take place: Jesus came to suffer, to be rejected, & to die in our place for our sin to be our Savior.

### **The Kingdom comes with judgment [Luke 17:26-31]**

*Some are unprepared for the Kingdom while looking for the wrong things; some because they're not even looking.*

1. [26-30] The Kingdom comes with judgment
  - a. [26] The Day of King Jesus' return will be like the days of Noah & Lot.
    - i. In the days of Noah (cf. Gen 6-9) & Lot (cf. Gen 19), both lived amongst really wicked people.
    - ii. In both cases, God's mercy & patience had run its course, judgment would be poured out on the unrepentant, yet no one seemed aware of God's impending judgment until it was too late.
  - b. [27-29] In both Noah & Lot's day, people were preoccupied with this life.
    - i. The way in which go about daily life determines our hunger for Heaven, our sensitivity to its nearness.
  - c. [30] The same can happen to us when the Son of Man returns.
    - i. Judgment will come, & most will be too busy loving this life more than Jesus & the joy of Heaven.
    - ii. [C.S. Lewis] *"We're half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink & sex & ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in the slum because he can't imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea."*
  - d. Application: What would you look back in longing for?
    - i. What are you preoccupied with in this life that distracts you from paying attention to eternity?
2. [31-37] Jesus teaches us what to expect when He returns.
  - a. [31] The Kingdom's judgment will come quickly.
    - i. [32-33] Don't look back like Lot's wife, longing more for this life than God & His Kingdom life.
    - ii. If we hold on to this life, we'll lose it all; if we embrace sacrifice & suffering for Jesus' sake, we gain everything (cf. Luke 9:24).
  - b. [34-35] The Kingdom's judgment results in sudden separation.
    - i. Death is physical separation from your body, life & people; Hell is spiritual separation from God (the Source of life), His goodness & His people.
    - ii. One person will be taken by Jesus (cf. Matt 24:31; 1 Thess 4:17), the other left behind to judgment.
  - c. [37] Where will this happen? Jesus answers the disciples: You can't miss it.
    - i. As vultures circle pointing to a corpse, the widespread destruction of judgment will surround those spiritually dead who reject the King & Kingdom.

### **Conclusion**

1. Challenge: Every day, you are making decisions about eternity. Are you living in light of Jesus' swift return?
  - a. If so, be intentional in the way you live to the glory of God & good of others (cf. 1 Thess 5:4-6).
  - b. Will you be ready when the King & Kingdom come?