

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

“THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM”

For individual study or group discussion

Throughout our studies in the *Gospel of Luke*, we have read how Jesus demonstrates the restorative powers of the Kingdom of God by healing the sick and disabled, delivering the demon possessed, and raising the dead. Yet in Luke 17:20–37, we encounter the church leaders asking Jesus a completely spiritually blind question, despite having witnessed his miracles, “When will the kingdom of God arrive?” To which Jesus replies, “Behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you” (v. 21). *The coming of the kingdom* has arrived and its King is standing right before them. Have you missed him as well?

The “already” nature of the Kingdom of God: The Pharisees question when the kingdom of God will arrive. (vv. 20–21)

When the Pharisees ask Jesus, “When will the Kingdom of God arrive?” their question reveals that they possibly assumed, like many others of their day, that the Messiah will free them from Roman tyranny. They are missing that his kingship is not centered on a geo-political kingdom, but rather a kingdom not of this world (John 18:36), where holistic restoration takes place that is both redemptive in mission and cosmic in scope.

- *Don’t expect the kingdom to fit your assumptions.* Read Acts 1:6–11. Even Jesus’ disciples are confused about the Kingdom of God. What are their assumptions based on their question, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” What is Jesus’ answer to them? What is the fundamental mission of the church as we await the consummation of God’s Kingdom (v. 8)?
- *Don’t miss the King who is in your midst.* Recall from Luke 7:18–23 that while in prison John the Baptist sends his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” How does Jesus answer John? John is probably aware of Jesus’ announcement in the synagogue when he read from the scroll of Isaiah (4:18–19). How does Jesus respond to John’s question about his identity by again using the book of Isaiah? (See Isaiah 29:18–19; 35:5–6)

The “not yet” nature of the Kingdom of God: The disciples question how the Kingdom of God will come. (vv.22–37)

Over the years, many false predictions have been made about Christ’s return and the end of the world. At the turn of the 21st century, there have been 20+ phony prophecies beginning with Y2K.¹ Even church leaders such as Tim LaHaye, Pat Robertson, Harold Camping, and Hal Lindsey have misled others by attempting to predict the second coming. But according to Jesus, his return and the Kingdom’s consummation will be unmistakable. Will you be ready?

- *The kingdom’s arrival will be unmistakable, so don’t be distracted.* The fundamental task of the church is to bear witness and make visible the Kingdom of God until Jesus returns (Matthew 24:14; 28:19–20). List the distractions Jesus warns his followers about in Luke 12:1–34.
- *Suffering comes before the Kingdom will be fully ushered in.* How does suffering for Christ’s sake demonstrate our relationship to God? (Acts 5:41–42; Romans 8:14–17)
- *Preoccupation with life’s activities causes Kingdom indifference.* Recall Jesus’ warning to his disciples in Luke 12:35–48. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11. How should Christians live as we await Christ’s return?
- *Proximity to those who are saved is insufficient.* “Remember Lot’s wife.” She was connected to the most godly family in Sodom. She was part of righteous Abraham’s family, and yet she was lost. Like the rich young ruler of Luke 18, her heart was captured by temporal things. She desired what she left behind more than she desired following God. What must we give up in order to inherit the Kingdom of God (Luke 14:25–33; 18:28–30)?

DATE: February 4, 2024

SPEAKER: Frank/Chad

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 17:20–37

Family Dinner Table

Thy Kingdom Come

Have you ever thought about the phrase in *The Lord’s Prayer*, “thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” as a call to self-denial?

According to Paul Tripp, it’s the “most dangerous prayer” you could ever pray: “The one prayer Christ calls us to pray requires us to let go of our momentary agendas and take up his eternal one. It requires us to let go of our distorted sense of need to his perfect sense of what is best. It is the ‘forever-you’ model of prayer. It requires you to take the long view—to let go of your hold on your life and surrender to the kingship of another. It is captured by a few dangerous words. Why ‘dangerous’? Because they have the power to turn your life upside down, to make you *a very different you* than you have been...so pray that prayer because its dangerous grace is really what you (and I) need.”²

- Why might the Kingdom of God be something that we find so difficult to cultivate in our lives? Why do you think we choose the kingdom of self over the Kingdom of God so often in our daily lives? Why might seeing the truth of God’s Kingdom for what it actually is be the key to rejecting the kingdom of self? Meditate on 1 Chr. 29:10–13 this week.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Widows Harvest Ministries,
strategic partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Sergey, *supported national partner*

¹Wikimedia Foundation. (2024, January 30). *List of dates predicted for apocalyptic events*. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_dates_predicted_for_apocalyptic_events

²Tripp, Paul David. *New Morning Mercies: A Daily Gospel Devotional*. 2014. Wheaton, IL. Crossway Books. January 28.