

The Kingdom of God Is Coming

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Luke 18:17 Truly I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a little child shall not in any way enter it.

He makes a couple of points here very clear. **1)** There's a kingdom of God, **2)** Only those who are like a child will enter it.

The Word of God often speaks of both the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God. In some cases, and in Hebrew understanding, these terms are interchangeable, but there are cases where these terms carry a subtle difference in what is being emphasized in that teaching. In some cases, the term "Kingdom of God" describes the activity of God's government being imposed on the earthly, natural realm, through the people of God exercising His strength. An example is supernatural healings and deliverances from demons (see Luke 11:20). The term "Kingdom of Heaven" often refers to the eternal kingdom, including heaven itself, and the coming Millennial Reign, as well as the eternal age, after this age is completed.*

Kingdom of heaven: John the Baptist ministered a baptism of repentance with water, "for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand. But He Who is coming after me is greater and will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (**Matthew 3:2, 11**).

Matthew 5:19 Whoever then breaks or does away with one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so shall be called **least** in the **kingdom of heaven (outer courts, lesser rewards)**, but he who practices them and teaches others to do so shall be called **great** in the **kingdom of heaven (closer to the throne of God, more noble rewards)**.

Matthew 5:20 Unless your righteousness is more than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the **kingdom of heaven**. Without the blood of the Lamb, no one will make it to heaven/get saved.

Kingdom of God: But He said to them, I must preach the Gospel of the **kingdom of God** to the other cities also, for **I was sent for this** [purpose] (**Luke 4:43**). Yeshua was sent to bring the kingdom of God to earth, which was the revealing of the Father's heart for the lost, His desire to heal, save and deliver, and His kingdom power being manifested in and through people who were committed to Him.

Matthew 21:43 "I tell you, for this reason the **kingdom of God** will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce the fruits of it."

The Lord was speaking to the spiritual leaders in this verse, rebuking them for not being good stewards (shepherds) of His covenant people (His representatives or kingdom subjects on earth) to bear good spiritual fruit. If the spiritual leaders of a generation are not bearing this fruit, the Lord will take away their stewardship and give it to those whose hearts are capable of bearing fruit. Equally, this spiritual principle applies to all believers. We are all called to be good stewards of His Word and bear good fruit for the individual ministries He give to each person. If we do not, we can equally have what He had intended for us taken away, and given to someone else who will do His will and bear good fruit (John 15:1-6).

Mark 4:11 And He said to them, to you has been entrusted the mystery of the **kingdom of God**, but for those outside everything becomes a parable (holy of holies versus the outer court).

Mark 9:1 And Jesus said to them, Truly and solemnly I say to you, there are some standing here who will in no way taste death before they see the **kingdom of God come in power**.

Acts 1:3 ...appearing to them during forty days and talking [to them] about the things of the **kingdom of God**.

1 Corinthians 4:20 For the **kingdom of God** consists of, and is based not in talk, **but in power**.

Hebrews 6:11 Power of the age to come: This is the kingdom of God being expressed in our present age. This is our day, and this is the hour we are in.

Luke 17:20-36 READ

Verses 20-21 The Pharisees were looking for outward, visible signs. This Scripture makes clear that the kingdom of God is within the human heart and amongst us. However, for all the miracles that Yeshua performed, they should have

recognized that the Kingdom of God had come, based on the supernatural works themselves, and He rebuked them for not recognizing that the Kingdom of God had indeed come to them, in His Person and ministry.

Verse 25 The Lord suffered many things, so too we must suffer many things, and be rejected by this age/generation, before the kingdom of can be fully formed within us. It is our suffering, the process of dying to self, becoming empty of self, that allows the kingdom of God to be formed within us to become like Him in character – in word, thought and deed.

Verses 26-27 Tells us that it will be just like in the days of Noah: eating, drinking, taking in marriage, and so it will be in the time of the Son of Man. In Noah's generation, the flood came and destroyed them all except the eight that were on the Ark.

We are "In the time of the Son of Man," when His kingdom is being formed on this earth – the last generation. Most in the Church are too busy with self and this world's pleasures. They may end up in the outer courts, (the lowest and furthest outskirts of the kingdom of heaven), but will miss having the kingdom of God formed within them to rule and reign during the Millennial age; and they will miss out on the glories of the higher realms of heaven and the City of God for all of eternity.

Verses 32-33 Remember Lot's wife. She looked back, hesitated to go forward in the purposes of God. It cost her life. Those who are not willing to die, take up their cross and follow the Lamb, will miss fulfilling their destiny, as she did.

Verses 34-36 Tells us what happens to those willing to lose their life, who will fulfill their destiny, and to those not willing – they will miss Him.

Luke 18:8 When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth? Will I find anyone who wants the kingdom of God? This is why Luke 18:17 makes it clear that only those who receive His kingdom principles, the kingdom of God, like a child will enter it, and will qualify to be a part of the kingdom of God that is coming to the earth.

Prior to this, in Luke 17:12-16, we see the 10 lepers. All were healed/saved, but only one came back and worshipped Him. That one recognized that in the person of Yeshua, the kingdom of God was before him, and he did not want to miss his time of visitation!

Aren't so many of us like the nine? Many want to be saved from hell and want His blessings, but they don't want to give back to Him, or to suffer for His sake. They want to live a selfish life, and not one of sacrificial love that we are called to live.

When these who are saved (like the 9 lepers) die, they may enter the kingdom of heaven, because of Yeshua's Blood and Atonement, but their status might be in the lowest realms of heaven, because they missed the fulfillment of the kingdom of God in their own destiny, their purpose, and the high call on their lives. They missed their time of visitation forever! They were not interested in an intimate relationship by making Him Lord over their lives. They were selfish, and they got what they needed from Yeshua, but were not willing to invest further in their relationship with Him, nor were they willing to die to self.

Believers who keep trying to preserve (the comforts and safety of) their own lives, are actually fighting against God. Those who are not willing to accept the kingdom of God as a child, will not enter it, will not be His Bride, and will not rule with Him for all of eternity.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (KJV).

Faith precedes understanding. When we walk in faith, understanding will follow.

Hebrews 11 talks of the great men and women of faith and teaches us:

Enoch was caught up to heaven, did not taste death because of faith.

Noah built the ark in faith.

Abraham left his homeland, and went to a place he did not know, as a temporary resident, in faith.

Sarah conceived a child in her old age, believed the word she was given, by faith.

Abraham offered his only son, Isaac, as a sacrifice and passed his test, by faith.

Joseph when dying instructed his bones to go with them when they left Egypt by faith. Why? He wanted to be positioned for what's coming (the Resurrection of the dead).

Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to bear the hardship/sufferings of God's people than enjoy the fleeting moment of sin. He left Egypt behind him in faith.

Hebrews 11:27 by faith he left Egypt behind him, being unawed and undismayed by the wrath of the king; for he never

flinched but held staunchly to his purpose and endured steadfastly as one who gazed on Him Who is invisible.

Hebrews 11:13 Tells us they all died, clinging to their faith, and did not tangibly receive the fulfillment of God's promise, only having seen it from a great distance by faith, at the same time confessing they were temporary residents on this earth.

Hebrews 11:15 Further says, if they had been longing for their country, they would have constant opportunity to return to it.

Hebrews 11:16 Tells us they knew truth, yearning, aspiring for a better and more desirable country – the kingdom of God!

We see something else about them as well in **Hebrews 11:39-40** READ.

Verse 39 Says they won God's approval because of their faith, but they did not receive the fulfillment of those promises.

Why? Verse 40 tells us why.

Because God had us in mind – this last generation. Their perfection, the kingdom of God coming to its full completion and maturity, could not be completed apart from us, those running the “last lap” of the race at the end of this age. The journey/kingdom purposes cannot be completed until we run our race. They (the cloud of witnesses) have longed for this day with great joy. They longed to be alive at this time. **But as they ran their race, their eyes were on the eternal.** Their lives were lived, so as to cause the eternal purposes of God to be manifested here on earth.

CLOSING:

They were kingdom minded – not just heaven minded – there is a difference. They had faith like a child and as the kingdom of God was formed within them, they entered it. They did not question God's plans for them. They did not fight against Him. They did not drag their feet, or procrastinate. They did not try to reason, or to give excuses for why they could not do all that God was asking of them. Instead, they were quick to receive His spoken word and instructions, no matter how crazy it seemed to those around them. They feared God and not man. They were quick to obey, quick to hasten and complete their assignments. Quick to co-operate with God, whether they understood or not, what He was asking and requiring of them.

Because of this faith, we see in Hebrews 11:39, they won divine approval from God. They were qualified to be a part of the kingdom of God, and they are currently enjoying the glories of the Kingdom of Heaven, until the time of the Lord return.

In these last days, they are a part of the Great Cloud of Witnesses that surround us (**Hebrews 12:1**), who have partnered, and will continue to co-partner with His Bride, cheering us on. Even though they passed from this earth, remember that they are not “dead saints.” They are alive in Heaven with the Lord. The Lord Yeshua told us that “Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are not dead, but are alive” (Matt. 22:32).^{*} Many believers in this generation already have received visitations, and will continue to have divine visitations from them (the witnesses who preceded us), providing divine counsel, to help us finish our course until the work and the harvest is completed. This is a part of God's eternal plan, His way for us. Hebrews 11:40 makes it clear that they will help us in these last days until His kingdom comes. May His will be done here on earth, as it is in heaven, until all things are restored. Amen.

Were they any different than us? No. They were men and women, just like us. Were they better or more qualified than us? No! They were just willing to believe God at His word and to obey Him, whatever the cost, and to not be a stumbling block to His eternal purposes.

If we keep resisting God, instead of co-operating with Him and agreeing with Him what He says is good by dying to self, we will miss the kingdom of God from being formed within us. We will disqualify ourselves from being a part of the Millennium Reign and ruling with Him for all of eternity. The Millennium Reign is further training, and it is not the end, by the way! After the 1,000 year reign of Yeshua the Messiah, Heaven will come down and the Eternal Kingdom will begin, and it will have no end. (Revelation 20-22). Our assignments for our King will go on forever, in joyful glory.

Remember, this earth, and all our trials, is our training ground. Our #1 priority and call on our life is to become love – perfected into His likeness, to become like the Lord Yeshua. How well we do that will determine how much we fulfill the 2nd call on our life – the ministry that He has for us.

And that will determine when we stand before Him on that Day, if what we have done with this one life, will pass through His fire and come out gold and silver, or if it will be burned up as wood, hay and stubble.

The choice is ours. Not every believer is going to enter the kingdom of God to be His Bride – most will not. We see that

depicted in the 10 lepers – only one considered Him worth knowing and bowed to Him. That number, that percentage, 1 out of 10, is much smaller than that which is depicted with the 10 virgins, where 50% had made themselves ready.

Personally, and sadly, I believe the smaller number is truer: that only 10% of believer's will be the Bride. I hope and pray that I am wrong for His sake. He deserves 100%. This is something I wonder and question the Lord about when I read those scriptures.

But, just like the Son of Man must suffer many things (**Luke 17:25**), before His kingdom comes and is established here on earth, so it is for us. We must suffer many things, bringing us to a place of total death to self, so the kingdom of God can come, be formed within us – for the kingdom of God is in you and amongst you (**Luke 17:21**). **The Kingdom of God is not a geographical place – it's a spiritual positioning, based on an intimate relationship with the Lord Yeshua.**

Notes do not reflect all that was spoken when first taught, but are just that – notes for the author's use to teach from. Therefore, because more detail was shared when spoken, notes have a potential to be misconstrued, pending on the readers level of understanding of the Holy Scriptures, if not understood with all that was spoken.

*Additional insight to notes provided by Jill Shannon. <http://coffeetalkswithmessiah.com>