

“What is the Kingdom of God Like?”

Sermon Notes

- **Every Christian agrees that Jesus is King – where he'd like to see far greater agreement is on the nature of his kingdom**

**When the kingdom of God is at hand...*

1. ...it's undeniably _____ (vv. 10-17;
1 Corinthians 15:50-57)

2. ...it's fiercely _____ (vv.18-19; Isaiah 11:6-9)

3. ...it's completely _____ (vv.20-21; Zephaniah 3:9;
Habbakuk 2:14)

Next Week: Luke 13:22-30 - “Strive to Enter Through the Narrow Door”

MEFC Community Group Study Questions
For the Week of May 13th – 19th

Getting Started

1. Many have rightly argued that “the kingdom of God” is the central theme in the Bible. 57 of the 66 books of the Old and New Testament explicitly mention this theme. Defining the kingdom, however, has proved slightly difficult. What exactly *is* “the kingdom of God” in the Bible? How do you know?

Digging Deeper

2. The word “kingdom” is found 45 times in Luke's Gospel. Take some time on the front end of your time together as a group and walk through these passages: Luke 1:3-33; 4:40-43; 9:1-2, 11, 27-36; 10:1, 9-11; 11:2; 13:24-30; 17:20-21; 19:11-27; 21:25-33; 22:14-18, 24-29; 23:50-51. What do we learn about the nature of the kingdom according to these verses? What sub-themes do you see emerging about this great central theme of the Bible?

Open Your Bible to Luke 13:10-21...

3. Verse 12 tells us that when Jesus saw the disabled woman, “he called her to him”. In other words, he engaged her in relationship right away. Why is it so easy to do the opposite? When a person is beset by some obvious weakness, illness or disability, it's common to avoid them, isn't it? In what practical ways can we as a fellowship do better in this area? Don't be general, get specific.

4. In verse 13, Luke says that as soon as Jesus laid hands on her, she was healed “immediately”. Compare this with Luke 4:39; 5:25; 8:44; 47-55 and 18:43. How does Jesus' track record stack up against many so-called 'faith healers' today – on TV or elsewhere? What is the danger of these types of ministries to the church and to the world at large?

5. According to Jesus, the response of the ruler of the synagogue is hypocritical (vv.14-16). Why? Tell about a time in your life when you acted hypocritically and (like the synagogue ruler) perhaps even used scripture to justify it (in this case Exodus 20:9).

6. Every time we see a “therefore” in the Bible, we are wise to ask: “What's the 'therefore' *there for*?” In verse 18, Luke inserts a “therefore”. Why does he do it? What point is he making? By implication, what point is Jesus making?

7. What is Jesus telling us about the nature of the kingdom of God in verses 18-19?

8. What is Jesus telling us about the nature of the kingdom of God in verses 20-21?

9. 1st century Bible believers gave very little thought (if any) to the fact that the Messiah came for a cross (Isaiah 52:13-53:12). On the other hand, 21st century Bible believers tend to give very little thought (if any) to the fact that the Messiah is coming back for his crown (Psalm 2; 72; 110; Revelation 19:11-20:6). Why are we so quick to hand Jesus his cross and yet slower to look forward to his crown?

10. Think back over the eight questions you've just answered and discussed. Would you say that your personal understanding of what the Bible teaches about the kingdom of God has grown as a result of this study? If so, how?