

## **Examining Christian Doctrine**

### **Lesson 16: The Words and Works of Jesus Part 4: – The Kingdom of God**

*After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" - Mark 1:14-15*

*A kingdom is "the governing influence of a king over his territory, impacting it with his personal will, purpose, and intent, producing a culture, values, morals, and lifestyle that reflect the king's desires and nature for his citizens." – Myles Munroe*

*"The 'kingdom of God' is a shorthand way of speaking about God's sovereign rule coming to bear on the world, the world that he made and for which he deeply cares. It's about God's purposes for the whole cosmos being unveiled in and through Jesus, the crucified and risen Messiah, and implemented through the Spirit." - N.T. Wright*

*"The Kingdom of God is the reign of God dynamically active in human history through Jesus Christ, the purpose of which is the redemption of His people from sin and from demonic powers, and the final establishment of the new heavens and the new earth." – John Stott*

*"The kingdom of God is the range of God's effective will, where what God wants done is done. It exists wherever God reigns supremely." – Dallas Willard*

*"The kingdom of God was the central theme of Jesus' message. The Gospels tell us that Jesus went about preaching 'the gospel of the kingdom' (Matthew 4:23; 9:35; Mark 1:14). His parables all relate to the kingdom. His miracles were manifestations of the kingdom. His mighty works were demonstrations of the kingdom. The central theme of all his teaching was the kingdom. The 'kingdom of God' is the manifestation of God's sovereign rule and purpose. Wherever Jesus went, he announced the arrival of the kingdom." - George Eldon Ladd*

#### **Principles of the Kingdom:**

##### **1. The Old Testament looked forward to the coming Kingdom of God – Is. 9:6-7, Dan. 2:44, Jer. 23:5-6**

- Isaiah 9:6-7 For to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.
- Daniel 2:44 In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

##### **2. John the Baptist announced the Kingdom – Matthew 3:1-2**

- Matt. 3:1-2 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

##### **3. Jesus preached, taught, and demonstrated the Kingdom as a present reality – Mark 1:14-15, Matthew 13**

- Mark 1:14-15 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup>"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

##### **4. Jesus commissions his disciples to demonstrate and preach the Kingdom – Luke 10:9**

- Luke 10:9 (Jesus sends out the 72) Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

## **5. The terms Kingdom of God and Kingdom of Heaven are synonymous – Matt. 19:23-24/Mark 10:23-25**

- Matt. 19:23-24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>24</sup> Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”
- Mark 10:23-25 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” <sup>24</sup> The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

## **6. Jesus taught the Kingdom as Spiritual in nature and not of this world – Luke 17:20-21, John 18:36**

- Luke 17:20-21 Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, <sup>21</sup> nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is in your midst.”
- John 18:36 Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

## **7. The Kingdom is not about going to heaven but about coming to earth – Matthew 6:10**

- Matt. 6:10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

## **8. The Kingdom grows and advances – Matt. 13:31-33, Daniel 2:44, Ps. 72:8-11, Is. 9:6-7, Matt. 28:18-20**

- Matt. 13:31-33 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. <sup>32</sup> Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.” <sup>33</sup> He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds<sup>[a]</sup> of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

## **9. The Kingdom of God pushes back darkness and is victorious over spiritual enemies – Matt. 12:28**

- Matthew 12:28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

## **10. The Kingdom life is available to live now – Matt. 6:33, Romans 14:17, John 10:10**

- Matt. 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
- Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

## **11. Jesus is the King of the kingdom and reigns today – Matthew 2:2, Acts 2:29-36**

- Matt. 2:2 and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

## **12. Paul taught the Kingdom of God – Acts 28:30-31, Romans 14:17**

- Acts 28:30-31 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him.<sup>31</sup> He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

## **13. There will be no end to the Kingdom – Luke 1:33, Daniel 7:14, Isaiah 9:7, Rev. 11:15**

- Luke 1:33 and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”
- Dan. 7:14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

- Rev. 11:15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever."

**14. Some Christians see a future fulfillment of the Kingdom (Millennium) – Jer. 3:17, Is. 2:2-4, Rev. 20:1-6**

- Jeremiah 3:17 t that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the Lord, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the Lord. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts.
- Isaiah 2:2-4 In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. <sup>3</sup> Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

**15. We must be 'born again/born from above' to enter/see the Kingdom – John 3:3**

- John 3:3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again