



PART 3: THE KINGDOM HAS COME NEAR!

INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of God/Heaven was mentioned by Jesus in the Gospels at least 85 times. But what did Jesus mean by the Kingdom of God? How do we experience it? Why do we need it? Isn't the kingdom of this world enough? Jesus didn't think so, let's find out why...

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:17

Psalms 145:13

Matthew 6:33

Matthew 22:39

Revelation 22:5

Luke 10:9

2 Corinthians 5:20

John 18:36

Revelation 21:1-8

Philippians 1:6

Luke 17:21

John 8:12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Will used a description of the Kingdom of God given by Dallas Willard: "Where what God wants done is done." How has your life been a part of the Kingdom this week according to this description?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. In what ways do you intentionally represent and bring God's Kingdom with you wherever you go (home, work, with friends, etc.)?
3. Knowing, if you are a follower of Jesus, that you are an ambassador of Christ, what things in your life do you need to rethink (places you go, things you say, what you put into your mind, etc.)?
4. Pastor Will talked about both a "now" and a "later" component to the Kingdom of God. The "Now" component involves the spiritual reign through Jesus' disciples (or followers). This requires "putting to death" things in our lives and "clothing" ourselves with some things. Read Colossians 3:1-14. What things do you need to put to death and what things do you need to clothe yourself with in order to live everyday life with God in His Kingdom?
5. Read John 8:12. What are you doing everyday to walk with Jesus? Is there a daily habit you need to develop in your life to help you walk with Jesus? What step will you take to begin this habit?

MOVING FORWARD

Application Prayer: Jesus, you promise if I follow you I will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life! Help my mind turn back to you throughout my day. I am yours—let your Kingdom rule in my heart.