

Final Kingdom: What is it?

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The Bible talks about the Kingdom of God quite often

Jesus actually reigns and his kingdom is the final kingdom.

*What would you say your understanding is of 'the Kingdom of God' right now?

The Kingdom of God will begin when we turn and welcome it in our life

Read and discuss Mark 1:14-15 (NIV)

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

Read and discuss Luke 17:20-21 (NIV)

²⁰ 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, ²¹ nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."

*What do these passages say about the nature of the kingdom?

*The Greek word for repent 'metanoeō' means to change your mind, heart, actions; to think differently. How has this been true in your life?

*What does it mean for the kingdom to be in our midst?

Violent people will always have contempt for the meek and humble nature of the actual reign of Jesus

Read and discuss Matthew 11:11-15

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. ¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. ¹⁵ Whoever has ears, let them hear.

*What does this passage say about the nature of the kingdom?

*If the kingdom will constantly be attacked and subjected to violence, how do we respond? How does Jesus' posture in this passage inform our response?

*Are you more offended by the noise of the people who coopt the Kingdom? Or are you more caught up in the song of the reign of Jesus? How is this playing out in your life practically?

The central message of Jesus' teaching is that his loving reign is in our midst

Believe it. Stop. Turn. Embrace it.

*Can you share what the difference is between noticing or enjoying the kingdom and experiencing it?

*Where do you sense the Spirit calling you to have ears to hear?

*How are you embracing the kingdom right now? Where are you at: welcoming, repenting, experiencing?

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