

## 22T09J Kingdom of God – Luke & John

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table We have been talking about the most prominent topic in the New Testament, the kingdom of God. I know many of you are probably surprised by that. In fact, Jesus talks about the kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven more than any other topic, more than all other topics combined.

But what, where, when is the Kingdom of God. Now that is the right question. And I know the Bible has the answer. So, I had planned on doing a fast survey of what Jesus said about the kingdom of God in the gospels. It quickly became clear, there is a lot Jesus says about the kingdom of God, so a fast survey was not going to work. Today I wanted to look at the scriptures in the gospels of John and Luke. I was not quite prepared for the sheer number of verses. John only has 2 verses in Chapter. Luke has thirty plus verses with the phrase kingdom of God.

### Let us pray.

**Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Lord use me to share your message. If I say something in error, please let them remember what you wanted them to hear, not my errand words.**

**Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Guide our discussion. We pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.**

Okay, I'm not going to try and read all 33 verses obviously. But let me give you the verses for your own study.

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|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| • <b>John 3:3/5</b>    | • <b>Luke 10:9/10</b> | • <b>Luke 17:20/21</b> |
| • <b>Luke 4:43</b>     | • <b>Luke 11:20</b>   | • <b>Luke</b>          |
| • <b>Luke 6:20</b>     | • <b>Luke 12:31</b>   | <b>18:16/17/24/25</b>  |
| • <b>Luke 7:28</b>     | • <b>Luke</b>         | • <b>Luke 19:11</b>    |
| • <b>Luke 8:1/10</b>   | <b>13:18/20/28/29</b> | • <b>Luke 21:31</b>    |
| • <b>Luke</b>          | • <b>Luke 14:15</b>   | • <b>Luke 22:16/18</b> |
| <b>9:2/11/27/60/62</b> | • <b>Luke 16:16</b>   | • <b>Luke 23:51</b>    |

**(HIGHLIGHT verses as we talk about them)**

Let's break these down into groups. First let's talk about the two verses in the gospel of John. Jesus is talking with the Pharisee Nicodemus about being born again. Please read it if you are not familiar with this story. The most well know bible verse John3:16 is part of this conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus.

Now let's look at Luke. We have already discussed Luke 13:18 & 20, Luke 9:62 when we already discussed when we talked about the parables of Jesus, the Mustard seed, leaven and plough parables.

Next there is a group of 14 verses which don't really address our questions. Let's just review them quickly.

Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 9:60 talk about proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God. This the phrase used to describe what Jesus was teaching and what Jesus sent his disciples to teach. Luke 9:11 says Jesus spoke to them about the kingdom of God; Luke 10:9-10 Jesus sends the seventy to tell people about the kingdom of God; Luke 8:10 Jesus tells the disciple why He teaches in parable, They are permitted to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; Luke 7:28 Jesus says the least in kingdom of God is great than John the Baptist; Luke 23:51 at the burial of Jesus it is mentioned that Joseph of Arimathea was waiting for the kingdom of God. Presumably, He was a follower of Jesus.

That leaves us with 18 verses in Luke to take a closer look at. Luke 6:20 is Luke's version of the Beatitudes. Luke 6:20-22 (NIV) <sup>20</sup>*Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup>Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. <sup>22</sup>Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.*

We could talk about these verses and the parallel in Matthew for many hours. For our purpose however, Jesus is stating a truth about how the kingdom of God works. You are blessed if you are part of the kingdom of God regardless of your situation here on earth.

Then Luke 16:16-17 (NIV) <sup>16</sup>*"The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it. <sup>17</sup>It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law.*

The good news of the kingdom of God or the gospel of the kingdom of God. This is the gospel of Jesus, the gospel of the kingdom of God.

Then Luke 18:15-17(NIV) <sup>15</sup>*People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>17</sup>Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."*

Jesus was so compassionate for everyone but never missed the opportunity to share a truth with His disciples. We have to receive the kingdom of God like a child. Innocently, trusting in God. Without our pride and arrogance. That is here and now people.

Next is Luke 9:27 (NIV) <sup>27</sup>*"Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."* This verse and the parallel in Matthew say that those standing there with Jesus will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God. I have heard many people trying to twist this to fit their perspectives. My opinion is literal based on what we now know Jesus meant when He said kingdom of God. Many standing there with Jesus became followers of Jesus, they became believers in Jesus.

They realized Jesus was God in the flesh as the “Son of Man”. By doing do so and placing their faith and trust in Jesus, they actually got to see the kingdom of God in their lifetimes. Followers of Jesus live as part of the kingdom of God. Jesus said the kingdom of God was in their midst.

In Luke 11 Jesus is being accused of being possessed by a demon or casting out demons with the power of satan. There is parallels to this story in Mark 3 and Matthew 12. Let’s read Luke 11:17-20 (NIV) *<sup>17</sup>Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: “Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. <sup>18</sup>If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup>Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup>But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*

A house divided can not stand. Jesus says since He is driving out demons by the power of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon them. The original Greek language manuscripts do not have the “upon you” part. It’s a bit of an incomplete sentence in English but I believe it should more like “the kingdom of God has come. Period. If Jesus is doing things on earth by the power of God, then obviously the kingdom of God is there, it has come.

Next is the seek first the kingdom of God scripture in Luke 12:27-31 (NIV) *<sup>27</sup>“Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>28</sup>If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! <sup>29</sup>And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. <sup>30</sup>For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup>But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.*

Many other translations say seek the kingdom of God here. Jesus is teaching us another obvious truth about the kingdom of God. When we surrender everything to God and put God first in everything we do. We seek the kingdom of God above all other things. Then as a child of God we can trust that God will provide for us. Food, clothes, shelter all these things God knows you need, so if we are followers of Jesus, then God will make a way for us to have the things we need, right here and right now in His kingdom.

The Narrow way of Luke 13:24-30 (NIV) *He said to them, <sup>24</sup>“Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. <sup>25</sup>Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’ “But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ <sup>26</sup>“Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ <sup>27</sup>“But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’ <sup>28</sup>“There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God,*

*but you yourselves thrown out. <sup>29</sup>People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup>Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.” <sup>29</sup>People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup>Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.”*

So this scripture comes right after a large block of teaching and healing. Jesus has told us before He is the only way. Narrow is the way that leads to the kingdom of God. Many for every nation and tongue will be at the party at the end. But this scripture does not really address our question, other than we have to do something in our here and now so we can enter the kingdom of God.

Then Jesus tells us what I believe is the clearest description of the kingdom of God in Luke 17:20-21 *<sup>20</sup>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.”* The kingdom of God is not something we can see literally right now. It’s not over there or over here. It’s every place but no specific place. So we have to get beyond this idea a kingdom is only something we can see. This is how Jesus describes the kingdom of God. Right here, right now but not only here and now. Not just what you see but beyond that and always.

I think we need to stop here for today. Let us pray. **Heavenly Father. Thank you for you. You only are worthy of praise. You alone are king of kings. Help us to recognize you as the king of our lives. Help us to live like we know it. As your followers, we are active parts of your kingdom. The kingdom of God. I pray that we act like it. Every day in every moment. Thank you, Jesus, for what you did for me or all of us. We pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.**

Let me leave you with this today. Jesus said the kingdom of God has come. The kingdom of God is in our midst. The kingdom of God is not some specific place. In fact the kingdom of God is everywhere, all the time, for all time. God has always been king of everything, so everything is the kingdom of God. Jesus says stop looking for it. It’s not as simple as a physical place. Start experiencing the kingdom of God, right here and right now. Next time we will complete our survey of the kingdom of God verses in the gospels of Luke and John.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope you will join me as we study and learn about the Kingdom of God in this series. If you liked the message, please click like. And please share the link with a friend. Send me comments to my email on the screen

Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.