

22T09h Kingdom of God-Mark

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. The obvious next question is what is the kingdom of God. Actually, Jesus starts much of His teaching with the phrase, “the Kingdom of God is like or the kingdom is”

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. This quickly became clear, there is a lot Jesus says about the kingdom of God, so a fast survey was not going to work. I have already reviewed 13 parables of Jesus, now for other teaching. So, today we will concentrate on the gospel of Mark.

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 pay in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

Okay, I hope we all understand that there will be a Kingdom of God, but when? Believe it or not, there is a lot of controversy and fights about this. I have heard statements like. The kingdom of God is the Millennium kingdom spoken about in the end of Revelation. And yes, that is definitely the kingdom of God. But others say the kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven is heaven. Duh. Right. And if God is there, then obviously this is God’s kingdom, the kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven. Some say that Jesus came to assure in the kingdom of God but was rejected by the Jews, so the kingdom of God is not yet or on hold.

Are you starting to get confused. I know I was. So what is a kingdom? So, let’s step back a little bit to get a better view. Did God create everything? Well yes. Is God sovereign over everything? I hope you said yes. God is God, which means He is in control of everything. If He is not in control, then He would not be God. So, another question. Is Jesus King? Well of course. Is He king right now? Well, He has to be, He’s God. Jesus is in control of everything. He is king over everything. So, the kingdom of God is wherever Jesus is king. Are you starting to understand this.?

Today let’s look at what Jesus said about the kingdom of God in the gospel of Mark. There are 15 verses.

- Mark 1:14/15
- Mark 4:11/26/30
- Mark 9:1/47
- Mark 10:14/15/23/24/25
- Mark 12:34
- Mark 14:25
- Mark 15:43

So, let’s start in Mark Chapter 1. This is the beginning of Jesus ministry. Mark 1:14-15 (KJV) *14Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”* So this is the

very simple summary of Jesus' message. It's time, the kingdom of God is here, repent and believe my good news. Some translations don't have kingdom of God in verse 14 but the message is the same. Jesus says the kingdom of God is here.

Mark Chapter 4 we already covered in the parables of Jesus. Mark 4:11 explains why He teaches in parables, Verse 13-20 is the Sower parable, 26-29 is the seed parable, 30-32 mustard seed parable. So Jesus is telling us the Kingdom of God is like in these verses.

Mark Chapter 9 starts with the mount of transfiguration. Mark 9:1 (NKJV) *And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."* This verse has puzzled theologians since it was written. How is it possible for some standing there with Jesus in the first century to see the kingdom of God before they died. They all died, a very long time ago. Well, Jesus is telling us an obvious truth. He did not say, see heaven. He said see the kingdom of God. If Jesus told them the kingdom of God was in their midst. Then if you realize Jesus is king, then you have seen the kingdom God. This is not a hard concept; we just make it complicated because too many of us don't want to accept the obvious. The kingdom of God is in our midst. Right here, right now. Anywhere the followers of Jesus are. That's His kingdom. The kingdom of God.

Verse 47 is part of a large block of teaching, let's read Mark 9:42-48 (NKJV) *⁴²"But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— ⁴⁴where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.' ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— ⁴⁶where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.' ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire— ⁴⁸where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.'* Jesus message here is don't let anything prevent you from being part of the kingdom of God.

Mark 10:13-16 (NKJV) *¹³Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. ¹⁵Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." ¹⁶And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.* Jesus is again giving us an obvious truth. We have to receive the kingdom of God with the innocence of a child. We can't think we know everything; we know nothing apart from God. To be part of the kingdom of God, we have to put aside our arrogance and pride.

Mark 10:23-27 (NKJV) *²³Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, "Who then can be saved?" ²⁷But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."* Jesus is telling us yet another obvious truth. We can never truly surrender our lives to Jesus if we trust our rich. People who have a lot of money often trust their money more than they trust Jesus. They struggle with trusting God with everything because they think they have a lot. Will God be

able to give them more than they have. What a trap. That is what Jesus is saying. Only with God is it possible our human ways will never result in getting to the kingdom of God.

Mark 12:28-34 (NKJV) *28Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" 29Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. 31And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." 32So the scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. 33And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." 34Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But after that no one dared question Him.* Jesus is again giving us an obvious truth. Love God and love other people the way God loves them, if you truly do this you are part of the kingdom of God. Now knowledge of this fact does not mean you do. That's why Jesus said they are not far from the kingdom of God. They were not actually doing what they knew. Once they start doing, then they are in the kingdom of God.

Mark 14:22-25 (NKJV) this is the last super. *22And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 23Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 24And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many. 25Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."* This is another scripture that theologians struggle and fight over. What does Jesus mean I drink it new in the kingdom of God. Well, I still think the obvious and most logical answer is usually the best. After Jesus rose from the grave, he told His followers that all dominion was given to him over everything. Jesus ate and assumedly drank with His disciples after the resurrection. Typical drink in the 1st century was wine so it is not unreasonable to assume Jesus drank wine with His disciples after the resurrection and before the ascension. So, how do we reconcile this. Let me give you my humble opinion. The kingdom of God is where King Jesus is. Once Jesus paid the price for our sin, everything was renewed again. It is likely that Jesus meant He would not drink it again until after His resurrection. Now I know many will want to fight with me about this. You are going to say it has to be the millennium kingdom or after the 2nd coming. Okay, you might be right but that is not obvious from this text. And if the kingdom of God is here and now, then well I'll leave it up to you.

Mark 15:43 (NKJV) I'm not going to read this scripture. All it says is that Joseph of Arimathea was waiting on the kingdom of God to come. It is this man's tomb that Jesus was put in after the crucifixion.

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. Throughout these scriptures Jesus is teaching us obvious truths about the kingdom of God. You can only enter the kingdom of God without your arrogance and pride. You cannot enter the kingdom of God if you trust other things like your money or your intelligence, well good luck with

that. Only truly surrendered disciples of Jesus get enter the kingdom of God. Love God first and most of all, then love others in the way God loves them, then you are living in the kingdom of God. Jesus already has all authority in heaven and earth. God created everything; He rules everything. Always. He is and has been and will forever be King of kings. No one can take it away from him. He's God. Don't miss it. The kingdom of God is in your midst. Right here, right now. What you need to do is accept the free gift. Or as Jesus said nearly two thousand years ago. *"the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe the good news of the kingdom of God."*

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.