

## 22T09K Kingdom of God – Luke & John (Part 2)

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 31 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 pay in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.**

Okay, last time we decided it was not practical to read all 33 verses in detail. I'll leave that to you in your own study personal study. Instead, last time we looked at or at least talked about 26 of these as shown.

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

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

These including Jesus telling the people that if He did miracles and cast out demons by the power of God, then the kingdom of God has come. He taught us not to look for the kingdom of God as a specific physical place. The kingdom of God is much bigger than any boundaries or time we place on it. The kingdom of God is literally everything, all the time, for all time.

Today I want to complete our survey of the kingdom of God verses in the gospel of Luke with a few parables of Jesus, a prophecy and the last super.

First the parables. Starting with Luke 14 the great banquet parable. Luke 14:15-24 (NIV) <sup>15</sup>When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. <sup>17</sup>At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ <sup>18</sup>“But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ <sup>19</sup>“Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ <sup>20</sup>“Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ <sup>21</sup>“The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ <sup>22</sup>“ ‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ <sup>23</sup>“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. <sup>24</sup>I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’ ”

Jesus uses this analogy of a banquet to give us a vision of the big party we are invited to as citizen of the kingdom of God. Many are invited, but sadly many make excuses. This is in this life right now. I don’t have time. I’ll do it when I’m retired. I have no energy for service. I want to use my money for a vacation not God’s kingdom. We make a lot of excuses not to do what God is asking us to do. We are invited to be part of the kingdom of God but sadly most chose not to.

Next is the parable of the ten minas in Luke 19. This is very similar to the parable of the talents in Mathew 25. The parable of the ten minas, Luke 19:11-27 (NIV) <sup>11</sup>While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. <sup>12</sup>He said: “A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. <sup>13</sup>So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. a ‘Put this money to work,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’ <sup>14</sup>“But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We don’t want this man to be our king.’ <sup>15</sup>“He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. <sup>16</sup>“The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’ <sup>17</sup>“ ‘Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’ <sup>18</sup>“The second came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned five more.’ <sup>19</sup>“His master answered, ‘You take charge of five cities.’ <sup>20</sup>“Then another servant came and said, ‘Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. <sup>21</sup>I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.’ <sup>22</sup>“His master replied, ‘I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? <sup>23</sup>Why then didn’t you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?’ <sup>24</sup>“Then he said to those standing by, ‘Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.’ <sup>25</sup>“ ‘Sir,’ they said, ‘he already has ten!’ <sup>26</sup>“He replied, ‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what

*they have will be taken away. <sup>27</sup>But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.’ ”*

This story is full of many lessons we can learn. I won't go into depth today, however. The people thought the kingdom of God was going to appear. Of course, it already had, they just did not understand it. Instead of addresses this issue, Jesus took the opportunity to teach. We are all given things to steward in this life, our life, our money, our stuff. Which is really all God's He's the one who gave it to us to steward. There will be a time, when God will make an accounting of what we did with His resources. The ones we were given. Be certain my friends, we will be held accountable for how we used God's things.

The next scripture is not really a parable we often refer to this as the eye of a needle story. A rich man had just come to Jesus asking what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus said give everything away and follow Him. The rich man left dejected. Luke 18:24-25 *<sup>24</sup>Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>Indeed, 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.” <sup>26</sup>Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?” <sup>27</sup>Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.” <sup>28</sup>Peter said to him, “We have left all we had to follow you!” <sup>29</sup>“Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God <sup>30</sup>will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”*

The disciples of Jesus were confused. The mistakenly thought blessings in this life like riches were a reflection of how God was blessing them. Many receive great riches in this world but will have nothing after death because they never surrendered to Jesus. Jesus says it is hard of a rich man to enter the kingdom of God because the rich man trusts in his riches instead of God. It's not about being rich. It's about who you trust. What we do with what we've been given in this life has a profound impact on what happens to us after we die. You have to ask yourself a tough question. Is it better to have wealth in this life or eternal life forever and ever with Jesus. For me that is an easy answer, I choose Jesus. But then Jesus says something very profound. If you give up everything for Jesus. You surrender everything to Jesus. Jesus says we will receive much more in this age and the age to come. In this life and the life to come. I'm not sure what that looks like, but it's here and now in the kingdom of God. God is fair and just and righteous. You will be treated right by God. Just trust in God with everything you have.

Another story in Luke 21 is the prediction of the destruction of Jerusalem, this is paralleled in Mathew 24 and Mark 13. Let's read Luke 21:20-31 *<sup>20</sup>“When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. <sup>21</sup>Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. <sup>22</sup>For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. <sup>23</sup>How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this*

people. <sup>24</sup>They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.<sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” <sup>29</sup>He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. <sup>30</sup>When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. <sup>31</sup>Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>“Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

We forget that Jesus had predicted the destruction of the temple and the disciples wanted to know when, how and what signs. This is the answer Jesus gave. Scholars have struggled with this one. How can people alive with Jesus in the first century see this happen. Well the obvious answer is usually the most likely. People standing there with Jesus in the first century got to see the kingdom of God. That's because the kingdom of God is not limited to a physical time and place. The destruction of the temple and Jerusalem did happen in the lifetime of many standing there with Jesus. Approximately 40 years later in 70 AD, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem.

Now our last scripture. I saved this for last because it's called the last supper. In Luke 22:14-23 <sup>14</sup>When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup>For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.” <sup>17</sup>After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup>For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” <sup>19</sup>And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>20</sup>In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. <sup>21</sup>But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. <sup>22</sup>The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!” <sup>23</sup>They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

Jesus makes two Kingdom of God statements in these verses. First, He will not eat the Passover meal again or maybe any meal again until “in finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God” Well when Jesus died for us on the cross, he was the fulfillment of the Passover for us. It found fulfillment in Jesus in the kingdom of God. The last is the cup. Jesus said He would not drink the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes. Again, scholars argue about this. But if Jesus' death on the cross fulfilled the law, made a way for us to be part of the kingdom of God. Then after His resurrection, it was new in the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God has come. In fact, there are other accounts of Jesus eating with His disciples after His resurrection. Most meals in the first century

included wine. This is just a fact. So it is not much of a reach to believe Jesus ate and drank with His disciples. He drank wine a new in the kingdom of God, right there and right then.

**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 the gospels Jesus teaches us about the kingdom of God. It's not a physical time or place, it's here and now. It's where we make choices and do things which impact our participation in the kingdom of God. He made all things new with His death and resurrection. That was in the first century, not some far off future. Jesus is King today and has always been king. He has all authority, period. Everything, everywhere, every time throughout history and beyond is the kingdom of God. That's what Jesus said and as for me, I believe Him.

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.