

THY KINGDOM COME | LUKE 17:20-37 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 5/31/2026

I. Presence of the Kingdom (20-21) | II. Prophecy of the King's Return (22-25) | III. Pattern of Judgment (26-30) | IV. Preparedness of the Believer (31-37)

INTRO: In a world obsessed with signs, schedules, and security, Jesus reminds us that **God's Kingdom is already at work**—and **one day it will arrive in undeniable glory**. The question is not merely *“when” the Kingdom will come*, but **whether our hearts are ready when the King appears**. – Today, as we open God's Word, we are reminded that this world is not our home, the King is coming soon, and every soul must be ready! That brings us to the title of this message: **THY KINGDOM COME.**

I. THE PRESENCE OF THE KINGDOM (17:20-21) – Before we unpack this section of scripture, know that **parallel verses** of this account are found in (Matt 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). However, the **CONTEXT** is not always the same. – Luke is unique in recording here. – **READ:**

A. Questioning of the Pharisees (20a) – They had been watching Jesus for some time and were still in the dark about the King and the Kingdom. – At this point, some *apparently mocked Jesus*, demanding *a time for the Kingdom to manifest!*

- Their own concept of the kingdom was **political**, not spiritual... it was **a Jewish kingdom**, not a universal one. – They desired a kingdom which would **overthrow Rome** and establish their own!

B. Quietness of the Kingdom (20b) – Jesus explained that the Kingdom *does not come with Outward Observation alone*. **It is not political or material!** His kingdom was altogether different. So, He corrected their mistaken expectations. – (1 Cor 2:14) *...the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

- Paul tells us that the Kingdom is something entirely different than what a natural man perceives: *“for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”* (Rom 14:17)

C. Closeness of the Kingdom (21) – Jesus provides a profound truth... *“The kingdom of God is within you.”* – The Greek preposition can mean, **within**, **among**, or **in the midst of**. – His statement makes clear **NOT** to look for a physical kingdom *“out there,”* until it is **first in their hearts!**

- The True awareness and manifestation of God's Kingdom is **WHEN** we believe in Jesus Christ, and allow Him to be the LORD of our lives! (*His Rulership then...governs our hearts! cf. Col 1:17*)
- Because the Pharisees did not recognize the One who stood before them... **the King Himself**, they could not perceive His kingdom either! (*No one will, unless they are Born-Again!*)
- Jesus explained this to a different Pharisee; **Nicodemus (John 3:3)**, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

P/A: God's Kingdom begins in the heart before it is revealed in glory! – Christ reigns now in every surrendered life! **Q:** *Are you aware of The Kingdom of God? All disciples should be...as we see next...*

II. THE PROPHECY OF THE KING'S RETURN (17:22-25) – *Though the Kingdom was present among them*, Jesus now turns His disciples' attention **toward a future day** when **The Kingdom will Come** Visibly and Victoriously. – **READ:**

A. The Longing for His Appearing (22) – One day, the disciples would desperately long to see Christ again... Thy Kingdom Come! *A longing for Jesus to return all to His Righteous Rulership* (cf. Rev 22:20)

- **P/A:** As modern-day disciples, this also applies to us as to them. **We too wait for His return!**

B. The Lies of False Predictions (23) – *As disciples wait... Jesus warned against deceivers* claiming secret revelations and hidden appearances. – Saying something like, *‘Look! Come and see Jesus is in the “Everglades,” or “Tampa!”* – Jesus makes it clear to His disciples NOT to look for Him on this earth!

C. The Lightning of His Arrival (24) – When Christ returns, it will be unmistakably sudden, and visible to all, just as when lightning flashes and lights up the whole sky (Matt 24:30), *“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”*

- His statement, *“...so also the Son of Man will be in His day,”* is a reference to His 2nd Coming!
- Jesus announces these certain events so that His disciples would Be Prepared! – **But before those distant things take place, He brings them back to their immediate future...**

D. The Lord’s Suffering Before Glory (25) – *Jesus emphasized His suffering because:* The Kingdom of God could not come in glory until the King first came in sacrifice! – Before He would reign over sinners, He would Die for Sinners! **Rejection preceded Resurrection**, and the **Cross came before the Crown.**

- **And this was no surprise announcement**—back in (Luke 9:22), He had **already foretold** that *the Son of Man would be betrayed, killed, and then triumphantly rise again on the third day!* – But the road to the Kingdom would first lead through Calvary... then Victory will be Realized!
- However, the disciples expected immediate glory, but Jesus explained that **suffering would come first**, this is the way of the KINGDOM...

FACT: For the record, the phrase **“Kingdom of God”** appears **32 x’s in the NKJV**. – Luke uses the phrase more than any other Gospel writer, making it one of the **dominant theological themes in his Gospel.**

- A simple summary of **the Kingdom of God** as recorded by Luke would be: **The Kingdom of God was Preached (4-9), Pursued (9-17), Prioritized (18-21), and Promised in Fulfillment (22-24).** – The Kingdom of God as revealed in Jesus Christ is a call for Response from all mankind!

P/A: I guess the question that we then have to ask ourselves is: **Are we aware or unaware of God’s Kingdom and its Principles?** *Is the Kingdom of God dwelling inside of me? Is the Spirit of God within me?* Is Jesus Christ truly my LORD, and the RULER of my life?

SEGUE: Jesus then moved to compare **the condition of the world before His return with two tragic moments in history.** A shift from their **CURRENT kingdom reality, to...**

III. THE PATTERN BEFORE THE JUDGMENT (17:26-30) – **READ:** Jesus compared the last days **BEFORE His 2ND COMING**, to **two Old Testament periods.** – Both marked by spiritual blindness and careless living, which resulted in **Divine Judgment...**

A. The Carelessness in Noah’s Day (26-27) – People carried on with normal life while ignoring God’s warnings. **(tt. Gen 6:5-7,11-12)** *They ate and drank, but sudden destruction came! (Flood)...*

- **Jesus' Point for mention:** They were Unprepared for Judgment. **Only Noah Was Ready!** (Gen 6:8-10) – They ignored Noah's warnings and continued ordinary life without repentance!

P/A: Likewise, many people will be spiritually apathetic before Christ's 2nd COMING. *(As we see today!)*

B. The Corruption in Lot's Day (28-29) – *The region of Sodom and Gomorrah indulged itself while judgment drew near* (Gen 19) – Their citizens even prided themselves in naming their city after their gross sin! – These, likewise...were Unprepared, being suddenly destroyed, by fire and brimstone!

- Peter provides even more detail of these two examples, as he describes the **Judgment of False Teachers** in **(tt. 2 Pet 2:4-7)**. *Whoa!*
- As soon as Lot departed, judgment fell upon Sodom. *God demonstrated mercy by rescuing Lot while also demonstrating justice against persistent sin.* – *Jesus provided these EXAMPLES to speak of...*

C. The Certainty of Coming Judgment (30) – *So shall it be when the Son of Man is revealed!* – The danger was not merely wickedness—it was Indifference and Unresponsiveness! – People ate, drank, married, bought, sold, planted, and built as though life would continue forever! – **Judgment came suddenly** as hearts were Unprepared. *(The same spirit of spiritual apathy marks our world today)*

SEGUE: Because Christ's return will come unexpectedly, **Jesus gives urgent instructions** about how His people should live now...

IV. THE PREPAREDNESS OF THE BELIEVER (17:31-37) – **READ:** Moving from the Judgment days of the ancients, Jesus looks to future events by saying... **"In that day."** – **It was still future for His disciples, and is still in the future for us,** because He still has yet to return! – **That DAY takes place during the Tribulation period,** when Jesus finally returns **(tt. Matt 24:29-21)**. – *(Remember Context!)*

A. Instructions for that Day (31-32) – So then, **Believers "Then" Must Not Cling to Earthly Things!**

1. **Don't "go back" (31)** – The dangerous time would require sudden abandonment!
2. **Don't "look back" (32)** – Jesus specifically used **Lot's wife** as an example! – **She looked back and became a worthless pillar of salt.** – This is unfortunate, because her deliverance was at the door. – **Her "look" was not a quick glance, but a staring gaze** at the sinful city that she loved. **(cf. 9:62; 12:34)**

B. Instructions for Deliverance (33) – Those alive, **"Then" Must Not Compromise Their Souls** – Jesus provides the principle of "saving" and "losing." **"Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it..."**

C. Intentional Separation at His Coming (34-36) – *The difficulty of this last section produces two schools of thought for interpretation.* – The emphasis on the **"TWO" side by side,** is the division of those taken, and those left behind. – **Key Differences Between the Two Views:**

<u>Interpretation</u>	<u>Meaning of "Taken"</u>	<u>Meaning of Eagles</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
Judgment View	Taken to judgment	Interpreted as vultures gathering around the dead	Negative
Rapture View	Taken to salvation/deliverance	Eagles symbolizing believers gathered to Christ	Positive

- **Both views can't be right!** Whatever your view, you must remember... **Context!**

- Because the Context is Judgment, I personally see the verb “taken” to mean “taken away in judgment.” – Furthermore, because this is the Tribulation period, the RAPTURE would have already taken place! – So, then those who are left, are those who remain for the Kingdom; just like NOAH and his family were left to enjoy a new world... Just like LOT and his daughters who were spared, while the unrighteous were destroyed by fire and brimstone.

P/A: Regardless of the time “When” Christ returns, He calls His followers to LIVE with ETERNAL PRIORITIES – His coming then will expose every soul, separating the saved from the lost.

D. Judgment Will Be Certain and Swift (37) The disciples then questioned “where” these people would be “Taken.” Jesus then provides somewhat of a cryptic answer, which reminds us of that last battle before Jesus establishes His kingdom (Rev. 19:17-18), Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, 18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.” (Judgment!) – This is a sobering image of final judgment on a rebellious world.

FINAL THOUGHTS: The King who first came in humility will return in glory. His return will not wait for your convenience or readiness... The Pharisees demanded signs, but Jesus calls for surrender. The disciples wanted details; but Jesus calls for readiness. – He still calls believers today to BE PREPARED!

“Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming... therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (Matt 24:42,44)

- So, examine your heart: Are you ready, or just assuming you have more time?
- If Christ came today, would He find you faithful—or distracted, comfortable, and unprepared?
- If you are not ready, Today is the day of Grace! The same Jesus who will judge... is the One who saves! Turn to Him now, Repent of your Sin, and Be Ready now! As we all cry out...

THY KINGDOM COME ... THY WILL BE DONE...on EARTH as it is in HEAVEN!

(Be a Disciple of Christ...This week...Go out and tell someone about this truth!)