



**Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series:  
“The Message or the Miracle – Week 7”, May 31, 2026**

**Opening Reflection**

*“The miracles were secondary to the message.”*

As we gather this week, consider this powerful truth: Jesus didn’t come merely to demonstrate His power—He came to deliver a message that would transform lives for eternity. The miracles validated who He was, but the message revealed why He came.

**Core Message Summary**

This week we explored the central message that unified the ministries of John the Baptist, Jesus, the disciples, and Peter: **Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.**

**Key Truths:**

- **Repentance** means “a change of mind”—and a changed mind leads to a changed life
- **The Kingdom of God** is not a distant place but is activated in a person when the King takes residence
- **The Purpose:** Jesus came to reconcile our broken relationship with God by conquering sin and defeating Satan
- **The Mission:** Once reconciled, we become Christ’s ambassadors, carrying the message of reconciliation to the world

**Discussion Questions**

**Section 1: Understanding the Message**

1. Why do you think Jesus, John the Baptist, the disciples, and Peter all began their public ministry with the same message: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near”? What does this consistency tell us about the importance of this message?
2. Repentance is defined as “a change of mind” that leads to “a changed life.” Can you identify a time when changing your mind about something spiritual led to a significant change in how you lived? What prompted that shift?
3. In Jesus’ time, religious people believed their family heritage (being descendants of Abraham) guaranteed their relationship with God. What are some modern equivalents—things people today mistakenly believe will earn them salvation or a right relationship with God?

**Section 2: The Kingdom Has Come Near**

1. The sermon stated: “When the King comes to live in your neighborhood, that’s no longer just a neighborhood, that’s Kingdom territory.” What does it mean practically for you that the Kingdom of God is not just a future destination but a present reality wherever the King resides?
2. Jesus demonstrated through miracles that He had authority over Satan and the power of sin. How does understanding Christ’s authority over evil and sin impact the way you face spiritual battles in your own life?
3. “The Kingdom is not built by location, but by the presence of the King.” How does this truth challenge our tendency to associate God’s presence with specific places (church buildings, holy sites, etc.) rather than with His indwelling presence in believers?

**Section 3: The Purpose—Reconciliation**

1. Colossians 1:21 describes us as once being “alienated from God and enemies in our minds because of our evil behavior.” Why is it significant that the text mentions we were enemies “in our minds”? How does this connect to repentance being a “change of mind”?

2. Reconciliation means “complete restoration and harmony in a broken relationship.” Think about the most broken relationship in your life. How does God’s work of reconciliation with us serve as a model for how we might pursue reconciliation with others?
3. Jesus conquered sin through His death and resurrection to reconcile us to God. How would you explain to someone who doesn’t know Christ why His death was necessary for our reconciliation with God?

#### **Section 4: The Mission—Ambassadors of Reconciliation**

1. 2 Corinthians 5:20 says, “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.” What does it mean to be an ambassador? How seriously do you take this role in your daily life?
2. The sermon emphasized: “The miracles don’t matter if you don’t share the message.” Have you ever been so focused on experiencing God’s power (answered prayers, blessings, miracles) that you neglected to share His message with others? How can we maintain the right balance?
3. We are called to “implore” (passionately plead) people on Christ’s behalf to be reconciled to God. What holds you back from passionately sharing the message of reconciliation? Fear? Uncertainty? Apathy? Ask someone to pray for you and support you in this mission?

#### **Personal Reflection & Application**

##### **This Week’s Challenge:**

**Reflect:** Spend time this week asking God to reveal areas where you need to “change your mind”—about sin, about your relationship with Him, or about your role as His ambassador.

**Apply:** Identify one person in your life who needs to hear the message of reconciliation. Pray for them daily, and ask God to give you an opportunity to share Christ’s message with them.

**Act:** Write out your own testimony of reconciliation. How did God reconcile you to Himself? Practice sharing it in 3-5 minutes so you’re ready when God opens a door.

##### **Going Deeper: Scripture for Further Study**

- **Matthew 3:1-2** – John the Baptist’s message
- **Matthew 4:17** – Jesus’ first public message
- **Mark 6:12** – The disciples’ first message
- **Acts 2:38-39** – Peter’s message at Pentecost
- **Colossians 1:19-22** – The purpose of Christ’s coming
- **2 Corinthians 5:18-20** – Our mission as ambassadors

##### **Closing Prayer**

*Gracious Father, thank You for not leaving us alienated and separated from You. Thank You for sending Jesus to conquer sin and reconcile us to Yourself. Help us to truly understand that we are now Your ambassadors, carriers of the most important message the world will ever hear. Give us changed minds that lead to changed lives. Give us boldness to share Your message of reconciliation with those around us. May we never be so captivated by Your miracles that we forget Your message. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

***“The message fuels the mission. We are Christ’s ambassadors.”***