THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND

The King Has Come - The Call to Repentance Has Begun

Sunday Message | November 1, 2026 | The Restored House Chapel

November Theme: The Kingdom Arrives in Jesus Christ (The Gospels + Acts)

Primary Texts: Matthew 3:1–2; 4:17 (KJV) | Supporting: Mark 1:14–15; Luke 4:16–21; Matthew 6:10, 33; Matthew 12:28; John 18:36; Acts 1:8

INTRODUCTION - HEAVEN'S KINGDOM HAS DRAWN NEAR

God's people awaited the promised Messiah and the establishment of His righteous rule. Daniel 2:44 foretold a kingdom that would never be destroyed, and Isaiah 9:6–7 announced the promised King.

John the Baptist began proclaiming, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2). Jesus then preached the same message (Matthew 4:17). "At hand" declares that God's promised reign had drawn near in the person and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Central truth: The Kingdom is God's righteous reign revealed through Jesus Christ. It calls people to repentance, faith, and obedience now, while believers await its complete future fulfilment.

Who? Jesus Christ, the promised King. What? The Kingdom has drawn near. When? With Jesus' coming and ministry. Where? First proclaimed in Judea and Galilee, then carried to the nations. Why? To reveal God's rule and save sinners. How? Through repentance, faith, the Holy Spirit, and obedient discipleship.

1. THE PROCLAMATION - THE KING ANNOUNCES HIS KINGDOM

Matthew 3:1–2; 4:17; Mark 1:15

The Kingdom is God's rule, not merely a territory, building, or human organisation. Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

The announcement demands repentance. Repentance is a change of mind and direction expressed in turning from sin toward God. John called for "fruits meet for repentance" (Matthew 3:8). Jesus commanded, "repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). Repentance does not earn salvation; we are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8–10), and genuine faith turns toward God.

Application: Bring attitudes, priorities, relationships, habits, and decisions under Christ's authority. Do not proclaim His Kingdom while deliberately reserving areas of life for disobedience.

2. THE PRESENCE - THE KING DEMONSTRATES HIS KINGDOM

Luke 4:16–21; Matthew 12:28; John 18:36

Jesus' ministry revealed the Kingdom through Gospel proclamation, mercy, deliverance, healing, truth, and the call to salvation. In Nazareth He read Isaiah's promise of good news to the poor and declared it fulfilled (Luke 4:18–21). His mission was "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

Jesus said that casting out devils by the Spirit of God showed that God's Kingdom had come upon His hearers (Matthew 12:28). His works confronted darkness, but He did not promise that every hardship would immediately disappear; believers still face tribulation (John 16:33).

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). Its source is not worldly power; its character is revealed through truth, righteousness, sacrificial love, and the Holy Spirit.

Application: A Kingdom church reflects the King by proclaiming the Gospel, pursuing holiness, caring for people, serving the community, and standing for truth without pride, manipulation, or domination.

3. THE PERSONAL RESPONSE - THE KING CALLS FOR DECISION

Mark 1:15; Matthew 6:33; Acts 2:36–38; Acts 1:8

Jesus calls for repentance and faith. Repentance acknowledges sin and turns to God; faith trusts Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection, and His promise of salvation. Church attendance, heritage, titles, and good works cannot replace personal faith in Christ.

Jesus commanded, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). Put God's will above selfish ambition, material pursuits, and human approval. Let Christ govern home life, work, finances, relationships, and ministry.

Jesus commissioned His disciples to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19–20) and promised the Holy Ghost's power to witness to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). The Church bears witness to the King; it does not replace Him.

Illustration: When a rightful owner returns to a household, the announcement calls its occupants to acknowledge his authority and bring their affairs into order. In a greater way, Christ's Kingdom calls us not merely to hear about the King, but to surrender to Him.

CONCLUSION - HEAR THE KING AND RESPOND

The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand because the promised King, Jesus Christ, has come. The call is not merely to admire the message, but to repent, believe the Gospel, seek God's righteousness, and obey Christ. Is Jesus only a subject of conversation, or is He Lord of your life? The required response is personal: turn to God, trust Christ, and live under His rule.

SEVEN PRAYER POINTS

1. Repentance: Lord, search my heart and lead me to genuine repentance. (Psalm 139:23–24; Matthew 3:8)

2. Salvation: Help me trust fully in Jesus Christ and the Gospel. (Mark 1:15; Ephesians 2:8–9)

3. Surrender: Let every area of my life come under the lordship of Christ. (Romans 12:1–2)

4. Kingdom priorities: Teach me to seek first Your Kingdom and righteousness. (Matthew 6:33)

5. Holy Spirit: Empower me to live in holiness, truth, and spiritual boldness. (Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:16)

6. Church witness: Make our congregation faithful in Gospel proclamation, compassion, and discipleship. (Matthew 28:19–20; Acts 2:42)

7. Kingdom hope: Keep me faithful as I await the full manifestation of Christ's everlasting Kingdom. (Daniel 2:44; Revelation 11:15)