



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Luke, Part 50: The Kingdom - Luke 17:20-37 - November 9, 2025

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - *Dispensationalism*, Left Behind, DC Talk, and low-level *Rapture Panic* VS. *Hebrews 9:27*, *2 Timothy 4:8* and a healthy desire for the arrival of God's Kingdom in *Christ's 2nd coming*.

The Pharisees are like us! Wondering about the arrival of the Kingdom of God - *Luke 17:20*

A. The Kingdom is *Already* (Luke 17:20-21)

"The kingdom of God is God's people in God's place under God's rule." - Graeme Goldsworthy

The entire OT (after Genesis 3) is a longing for the Kingdom of God - yet, God's people are wayward, God's place is abandoned, and God's rule is forsaken.

But, then Jesus says:

For behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you. Luke 17:21

Jesus is God's person, God's place, and God's rule.

George Ladd's book on the Kingdom, "*The Presence of the Future*" articulated the biblical idea that God's kingdom already exists on earth, and is still yet to arrive on earth.

Academic Theological Language: *Inaugurated Eschatology* OR More Simply: *Already, Not Yet*

B. The Kingdom is *Not Yet* (Luke 17:22-25)

Though the Kingdom has arrived in Christ, it will arrive in completeness at his 2nd coming.

Jesus uses "*Son of Man*" language (v. 22, 26, 30) to allude to *Daniel 7:13-14* - a prophecy of a King being given an everlasting kingdom.

The Kingdom will Come:

- *Patiently* (v. 26) - There is no kingdom without the cross. First, Jesus must suffer before he comes in glory and victory.
- *Unexpectedly* (v. 22-23) - Predictions, charts, and timelines are ultimately useless and often do more damage than good. Jesus says, "*No one knows...*" (*Mark 13:32*)
- *Obviously* (v. 24) - When Jesus does arrive to inaugurate the days of the Son of Man, no one will miss it.

C. Be Ready for the Kingdom (Luke 17:26-37)

Two Old Testament Examples: *Noah* (*Genesis 6-7*) & *Lot* (*Genesis 19*)

Both are cases of God's widespread judgment for egregious sin - while bestowing grace upon a small remnant who have received his favor/grace.

Interesting Note: In our passage, Jesus does not comment on their wickedness as the reason for the judgment, but on their apathy and unpreparedness.

Not only did they deserve it, they were not ready for it.

The rhythms of day-to-day life obscure the reality of the Kingdom of God in our lives and expectations. We forget what we are living for, and what we are waiting for.

Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it. Luke 17:33

— The only way to prepare for the NOT YET kingdom is to give ourselves full to the ALREADY kingdom.

— We prepare for the *coming & victorious Jesus* by following, serving, worshipping the *crucified & risen Jesus*

People who share almost the exact same situation in life will find themselves on opposite sides of eternity. (v. 34-35)

The Kingdom of God is coming, and indeed, it's already here - we should live like it!



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How much of your Christian life has been marked by “rapture anxiety” or similar worries about how the last days will play out?
2. What is the Kingdom of God?
3. In what ways do we see that the Kingdom of God is already present?
4. In what ways do we see that the Kingdom of God has not yet arrived?
5. Why is it important to understand that both those realities (though seemingly contradictions) are simultaneously true?
6. Who knows when Jesus is returning?
7. How do we become complacent when it comes to expecting the Kingdom to come?
8. How can we better prepare for the coming Kingdom?