

Luke 17:20-37 – 23 July 2023

“Intoxicated With Normalcy”

Introduction

*From Chap 10-19a until they enter Jerusalem, Jesus' messages have a time urgency to them

*Chap 15, He spoke of receiving the lost back with grace and joy!

*Chap 16 He speaks to His disciples about choosing to prepare for the future

*Chap 17 Jesus began to address restoring relationships

*Now in Chap 17:20, we're interrupted w/ a demand of the Pharisees to all these teachings will be fulfilled

*Neither Pharisee nor disciple could figure out when Jesus intended to fully realize His mission!

*It didn't seem very NORMAL to anyone

*We're intoxicated w/ normalcy & can't seem to wrap our minds around anything other than the routine
So today, let's look at 4 ways in which the

Kingdom of God is just NOT normal

#1 – The Kingdom isn’t found geographically but found within a new heart (Vs 20-24)

Read Vs 20

1. The question assumes that the Kingdom of God has not already come, but it had
2. They’re thinking in terms of a world-dominating army that will force all others into immediate submission
3. You can’t observe or inspect the Kingdom as if it is a stand-alone object
 - a. It’s born of the Spirit (wind)
 - b. Read John 3:8 – It’s of another realm

Read Vs 21

1. “*Within you*” is better translated “within you all” or “it’s a heart condition within you, not an army to be seen on the outside”
2. Some people among the population of Chambersburg demonstrate the characteristics of the “wind of God” & some people among us don’t

3. The Kingdom of God is seen thru each individual life that's submitted to Christ the King

Read Vs 22-24

1. These same expressions were said of Jesus in Matt 24 as referring to the Great Tribulation
2. Movements of the kingdom are known to all those in the Kingdom
 - a. Read I Cor 2:14 – we need a spiritual mind
 - b. They're not hidden from its members
3. This was new to many of them that Jesus would be leaving
 - a. While he's gone, some liars will deceive by saying that Jesus has made a private or small-scale showing
 - b. This has already happened & will continue
4. His 2nd Coming is like lightning, in that all the world will see Him
 - a. Jesus is coming back to save Isarel
 - i. Read Zec 9:14-17

#2 – The Kingdom isn’t founded on a conquering king but on a suffering Messiah (Vs 25)

Read Vs 25

1. Before Jesus leaves, these things happen
 - a. It shows the nature of His leaving is in rejection
2. “This generation” as in Matt 24 indicates the current Israelites at the time of the events
3. Before & after vs 25, Jesus is speaking of the days of His 2nd Coming – vs 25 is a stand-alone verse

#3 – The Kingdom doesn’t culminate slowly over time but with a sudden totality (Vs 26-30)

Read Vs 26-27

1. This is the 1st of two examples of what it’ll be like at the time of Jesus’ 2nd Coming
2. These exp speak of suddenness & totality
 - a. Turn to II Pet 3:4-10

3. As the days of the 2nd Coming get closer, they will more & more characterize the people, in that they're only given to the things 'under the sun' with no attention to the Lord God
4. Read Gen 6:5 – Only evil continually
 - a. Arise from among the dead (Eph 5:14)
 - b. Jesus warns us against being dull of hearing
 - i. Read Matt 13:15-17

Read Vs 28-29

1. If the 1st exp in the days of Noah saw people dedicated to the pleasures of relationships, the days of Lot show people dedicated to the pleasures of business & economics
2. How was it in the days of Lot?
 - a. Read Eze 16:49 – Prosperity led to demise

Read Vs 30

1. Men characterized by only living for the vanities of this world

#4 – The Kingdom divides those ‘under the sun’ from those ‘in the Son’ (Vs 31-37)

Read Vs 31-33

1. Lot’s wife fled b/c of pending destruction
 - a. Same here, Israel to flee to Petra for the Anti-Christ’s massacre that’s coming
2. Lot’s wife looked back longing for the flesh-life she was leaving (not longing for the spiritual)
 - a. Same here, seeking to save your physical life, it will be lost, but letting go of the flesh-life gains an eternal one
3. J. Elliott – He is no fool who gives...
4. Vs 33 is said 6 times in the Gospels
5. Think of how close Lot’s wife got to forsaking the flesh-life?
 - a. She got right up to the very gates of Zoar, the next city, before she looked back

Read Vs 34-36

1. The coming of the Lord is a world-wide event
2. The emphasis is that each set of “two” seem to be the same and yet the Kingdom is only within one of them
3. God knows how to separate the righteous from the wicked – how to divide the sheep from goats

Read Vs 37

1. The answer to their question, ‘where are they taken’ is to destruction
 - a. Matt 24:28 calls the bodies corpses
2. Jesus isn’t concerned to give them a specific place, but he wants them to have a moral picture
 - a. If our eyes are open, we can tell that our culture is dying – at that time, there shall be judgement

Conclusion

We can become so intoxicated with normalcy that we forget that we've been purchased into another realm, another kingdom that's spiritual and eternal

- 1. This kingdom isn't found geographically, but found within every new heart that receives Christ as their Savior**
 - a. Are we seeing this world w/ a spiritual lens?
- 2. This kingdom didn't begin with a conquering king & army but with a suffering Messiah & an invitation**
 - a. Have you come to the invitation of the cross?
- 3. This kingdom doesn't culminate slowly but with a sudden totality**
 - a. Are you ready today? B/c it could be today
- 4. This kingdom doesn't function just under the sun, but it functions in the Son**
 - a. We're born for a much greater purpose than to make a little money & gain a little comfort
 - b. You're here to glorify God & disciple souls