



What God’s Kingdom Looks Like in the Real World Mark 3:7-12

God’s kingdom comes amid great conflict.

^{7a} Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed...

Text Message:

- o Pay attention to the phrase “great crowd.”
- o In the handful of verses here, Mark describes those that followed Jesus as a “great crowd.”
- o *Isn’t it fascinating to think that the Jesus movement that began almost two millennia ago is*

still drawing “great crowds” all over the globe?

- o One constant that has remained is that God’s kingdom comes amid great conflict!
- o Right before we see the great crowd following Jesus here in Mark’s Gospel, it is recorded:
6 The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.
- o Yet the Pharisees and Herodians, like many others opposed to Christ, have passed into the dust of history, while the Jesus movement remains!
- o **And** God’s kingdom movement is not something we applaud as spectators, but participators with prayer, giving, and action!

God’s kingdom comes to all cultures.

7 Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea ⁸ and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon.

Text Message:

- o There are two significant things to be said about this listing of places:

- 1) These places represent “all directions” in the ancient world of Israel at the time of Jesus: North, East, South, and West. These boundaries would extend even further in all directions as Jesus commissions disciples to “go into all the world” (Matthew 28:19-20).
- 2) There are seven locations listed, which in addition to seven geographical locations, represent by the number seven “completion.” As such, the universal nature of God’s kingdom for all nations is being communicated.

o It is estimated that “Every day another 74,000 people across the globe come to faith in Christ. That’s 3,083 new fellow believers every hour of every day.”

Source: <https://www.epm.org/blog/2008/Jul/17/world-evangelism-statistics-and-missions-giving>

o Again, this global work is something we are called to participate in!

God’s kingdom comes as good news to all creation.

¹⁰ for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him.

Text Message:

- o Remember, the kingdom of God didn't mean "going to heaven when I die" (although this is the tip of the iceberg) but how God was breaking in and through with good news to all creation.
- o For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10
- o We embody the kingdom of God as we live out our ordinary lives and work, being "good news" to the world around us!