

“Kingdom Confusion”

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INTRODUCTION

This is the week of Palm Sunday, the day we remember the "triumphal entry" of Jesus into Jerusalem. It marks a time when the kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world converged in one place and time. The Jews hoped that Jesus would be the one to overturn Roman rule and establish the “kingdom of God.” The kingdom they were concerned with reflected their limited understanding of what God’s kingdom is really about. In this study we find God’s kingdom is about more than a throne or a territory, it is about the personal recognition of Jesus’ authority.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

When have you been really confused? (e.g. school, tech stuff, stock market...)

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Q1. Read John 12:12-16; Luke 24:25-27; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 53:7

The day of Jesus entry into Jerusalem was one of excitement and anticipation. As Jesus entered, what did shouts of the crowd reveal about their expectations (John 12:13)? Compare the prophetic descriptions of the messiah in Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Isaiah 53:7. How did Jesus describe those who had embraced only the prophecies of the conquering king but not those of the suffering servant? (see Luke 24:25) Have you ever found yourself choosing to accept some scripture but not others? What is one thing in the Bible you have personally found difficult to accept?

What is A Kingdom?

Q2. Read Matthew 4:17, 7:21; Luke 4:5-6, 9:23-24

A kingdom is the place where the king has the power and authority to rule. Dozens of times in the Gospels Jesus refers to the kingdom of heaven. According to Matthew 4:17, and 7:21 what are some indicators that God reigns in someone’s life? In Luke 4:5-6 Satan offers to give Jesus all the kingdoms of “the world”. In what ways do you feel Satan has been given power and authority to rule over “the world?” The most important kingdom to consider is your personal kingdom. How does Luke 9:23-24 guide us in keeping God as the ultimate power and authority over our lives?

The Kingdom of God is Yet to Come

Q3. Read Matthew 24:30; John 18:36-37; Revelation 21:1-3

The complete and unlimited rule of God will be ushered in at Christ’s Second coming. How is the coming of the “Son of Man” described in Matthew 24:30? How did Jesus explain his kingdom to Pilate in John 18:36-37? How does the

description of heaven in Revelation 21:1-3 demonstrate that the kingdom of God is yet to come?

The Kingdom of God is Here Now

Q4. Read Mark 1:15; 4:11; Matthew 12:28; Luke 10:9; Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 4:20

Those who follow Jesus have access to the kingdom of God. How do Mark 1:15 and 4:11 state this? Examine the remaining referenced passages (Matthew 12:28; Luke 10:9; Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 4:20) to see several ways that the kingdom of God is near. Share some of the ways you have personally witnessed God’s kingdom and power demonstrated.

The Kingdom of God is Hidden

Q5. Read Matthew 13:44; Matthew 6:31-33, 9-13

God’s kingdom is not hidden from us so that it can’t be found, but rather God desires that we would seek it and find it (Matthew 13:44 and 6:33). In fact, seeking God’s kingdom is a key element of the prayer that the Lord taught his disciple to pray (Matthew 6:9-13). To close out this time of study, join together in declaring that truth in “the Lord’s Prayer”.

WRAP-UP

As Jesus entered Jerusalem preceding Passover, he knew that his battle was not against the Roman Empire, but the crowds did not. Although He declared to Pilate that He was in fact a king, Jesus said His kingdom was not of this world. That kingdom is yet to come and will be ushered in at His second coming when He returns in power and glory. But those who follow Jesus have access to the kingdom of God even now. God has revealed its secrets to them. And for those who will seek to find it, God’s kingdom will be found as a treasure greater than any in this world.

Memory Verse

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33 NIV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space) _____

Challenge:

Sometimes we forget the powerful message of the coming of the kingdom of God. Read through the final chapter of Revelation. Allow God to renew your anticipation and hope of His Second Coming.

Q1

Read John 12:12-16 in your Bible

Read Zephaniah 3:14-20 in your Bible

Isaiah 53:7 ESV - 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

Luke 24:25-27 ESV - 25 And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Q2

Matthew 4:17 ESV - 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 7:21 ESV - 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Luke 4:5-6 ESV - 5 And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, 6 and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.

Luke 9:23-24 ESV - 23 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

Q3

Matthew 24:30 ESV - 30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Read John 18:36-37 in your Bible

Revelation 21:1-3 ESV - 1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

Q4

Mark 1:15 ESV - 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Mark 4:11 ESV - 11 And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables,

Matthew 12:28 ESV - 28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Luke 10:9 ESV - 9 Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

Romans 14:17 ESV - 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 4:20 ESV - 20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.

Q5

Matthew 13:44 ESV - 44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Matthew 6:31-33 ESV - 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:9-13 NASB - 9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 11 'Give us this day our daily bread. 12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.']

Prayer requests con't _____
