

Introduction:

- Funny's
 - When is a 'piece of wood' like a King? Answer: When it's a ruler!
 - When a King has back problems - what is the usual diagnosis? Answer: An aKING back
 - What do Richard the Lionheart and Winnie the Pooh have in common? Answer: The same middle name!
 - Why did the King go to the dentist? Answer: To get his teeth crowned!
- The Last Generational Sunday I spoke about seeking the Kingdom. We look for what is valuable to us. No prizes under the chairs today, least I do not think there is.
- I want to answer four questions this morning: What is the Kingdom of God? How do you get into the Kingdom of God? When is the Kingdom coming? What do we do once we get in?

I. What Is The Kingdom of God?

- A. In its simplest form it is the government of a king.
 1. The Kingdom of God is the governing influence of a king over a territory, impacting that territory with his will, his purpose and his intent producing a culture and a moral standard for his citizens.
 2. The very heart of any kingdom is its king. Heaven exists because of the creative activity of God. He created it! He rules over it! He is King of it!
 - a) Without a king there is no kingdom.
 - b) The king is the central component of the kingdom.
- B. The king is the only source of authority in his kingdom. *"When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law."* (Matthew 7:28-29, NLT) He is sovereign! Meaning there are not external controls that he answers too.
- C. Jesus is King of the Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven.
 1. He is the very heart of the Kingdom. His governing influence is over all who are in the Kingdom of God. His will therefore impacts our lives affecting both our purpose and our morals.
 2. He answers to no one. His rule is sovereign! Meaning there are no outside forces affecting His rule.
- D. We must also note that He is GOOD! And there is no need to fear under His rule.
 1. He owns everything and everyone. He is good.
 2. He protects His citizens. He is good.
 3. He provide for His citizens. He is good.
 4. He is a good King and we can trust Him!
- E. Everywhere Jesus went He preached the Kingdom and sent His disciples to preach the Kingdom.

II. How Do You Get Into The Kingdom of God? John 3

- A. A man named Nicodemus (meaning conquerer of the people) comes to Jesus under the cover of night.

1. Nic says to Jesus, "It is evident that God is with you." vs 2
 2. Jesus answers by basically saying, "It is evident that God is not with you." He communicates that by His statement: "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." Jesus is saying, "Nic, it is obvious that you are not in the Kingdom of God. But you need to be. And here is how you do it?"
- B. You must be born again. Why? In order to see the Kingdom of God. Yes, you must be born again but why? In order to see the Kingdom of God!
1. Unless - **εἰ μὴ**: a marker of contrast by designating an exception—'except that,' Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 794). New York: United Bible Societies. IE. "You will not get ice cream if you do not clean up your room." You either are or you are not born. IE. Nicodemus knows he has been born a Jew. The only way to be a Jew is to be born one. Being born a Jew gave him access to certain rights and privileges to only Jewish people.
 2. You want to access the Kingdom you must be born into to 'see' it.
 3. Gr. - *horáō*, which means "to look," "to see," "to experience," "to perceive," "to take note," "to see to," "to take care." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (p. 706). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans. In the NT it readily accepts 'seeing' as a function of revelation.
- C. Nicodemus was a spiritual leader that was not born again. He was therefore living in darkness.
1. The Hebrew word for darkness is the same word for ignorance.
 2. Similarly the word for knowledge in the Hebrew and the Greek is the same word as light.
 3. So we are talking about ignorance and knowledge. The prince of darkness is the prince of ignorance. Jesus is telling Nic that he is ignorant of the Kingdom as a spiritual leader of Israel.
- D. So how do I get born again? Great question Nicodemus!
1. "Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit." (John 3:5, NLT)
 2. The water speaks of baptism, which John had been doing in the river Jordan. It was a baptism of repentance. Repentance is something that man chooses to do. He decides to change the course of his life.
 3. Spirit is something that only God can do. Justified, redeemed, born again!
 4. To be born again you must decide to make Jesus your Lord. He becomes your King. He owns you. He owns everything you have. You choose to surrender your life to him. He in turn gives you life. When you get life you see the Kingdom, you experience the Kingdom, you perceive the Kingdom. And it all happens by faith. Jn 3:16 God loved so much that Whosoever shall believe, shall be saved. Saved from eternal death.

III. When Is This Kingdom Coming? Luke 17:20-ff

- A. "Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.'" (Luke 17:20-21, NKJV)
1. This is the first of several places in Luke-Acts where a request for clarity regarding the kingdom leads to the correction of misunderstanding about the eschatological timetable

and, then, about the nature of God's dominion. Green, J. B. (1997). [The Gospel of Luke](#) (p. 628). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

2. Two wrong assumptions:
 - a) Their question assumes that God's reign is totally future. Jesus sets them straight: It is standing right in your midst Right NOW! It is 'among' you. Some translations say "Within you" but that does not fit the context because these guys are missing the King and the Kingdom as they stand there.
 - b) The second point in their question that causes them to miss the Kingdom is that they are looking to scientifically see the Kingdom coming (signs). But we already know how to 'see' the Kingdom...Must be born again! Perceived by faith!
3. Jesus goes on to talk about the Day of the Lord - His second coming. But he stresses that the Kingdom is already here now. And the only way to be ready for the King when he returns is to be in the Kingdom now and to remain in the Kingdom.

IV. What Do We Do Once We Are In?

- A. IE. Every kingdom/country has a government. The government tells us how things operate with its jurisdiction. You have to know how to it operates in order to live successfully in it.
 1. IE. Countries formerly under British rule drive on the wrong side of the road. If you only knew the number of times that I almost stepped out in front of a car because I was looking the wrong way.
 2. IE. In Singapore it is against the law to chew gum.
- B. America has a constitution. Do you know what it says? Our constitution lets us know what our rights and privileges are as Americans.
 1. Some questions about our constitution:
- C. We seek it all the more Mt 6:33
 1. We have to find out from the Word of God how the Kingdom operates.
 2. We have to find out who we are in Christ. What does it mean to be a citizen of the Kingdom?
 3. What are the privileges that we have as sons of the Kingdom?
 4. We trust our King because He is good!

Conclusion:

- Nicodemus came in the night looking for Jesus. He was afraid.
- The devil always wants to make us afraid to be seen with Jesus.
- He knows that once we discover how good He is we will never love the darkness/ignorance again.