



THY
KINGDOM
CAME



Jacob W. Jones

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Prologue

This is a short personal Bible study that is intended to explain what Jesus meant when He spoke about the kingdom of God or the kingdom of Heaven. I have written a longer Bible study called "Follow Him." You can download a free copy of it at followhim.online. Also, make sure you follow my podcast and sign up for my free newsletter to ensure you are one of the first to find out about future publications. I'm currently working on several books, including one about the kingdom of God. You can find everything on my website: jacobjones.org

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John's Message

"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Mt 3:1-2)

John the Baptist was a strange character according to the Bible. He wore strange clothes, hung out in the wilderness, ate strange foods, and preached a lot of new strange things. According to prophecies in the Old Testament, there would be a man who would come "crying in the wilderness," and his purpose was to prepare the coming of the Lord. In Matthew chapter 3, the Bible tells us that John the Baptist was that man. The forerunner of Christ. The one crying in the wilderness.

The message that John was "crying in the wilderness" was simple:

Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Mt 3:2)

The word "repent" means to turn around. It is used in the Bible to tell people to turn away from their wicked ways back to God and His righteous ways. The phrase "at hand", means close by. It is a figure of speech similar to "at arms length" or "just around the corner". The simple message was this, turn back to God because His kingdom is coming soon.

John's calling was to prepare the way for the Christ. He did so by asking people to turn their hearts back to God. He also baptized people that were repentant, and promised them that someone would come later with another kind of baptism. The baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' Message

"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Mt 4:17)

Jesus was born six months after John. He was actually the cousin of John. When Jesus began His ministry, He preached the exact same message as John. Nothing changed. The kingdom was not yet here, but it was still close. Very close. Jesus gave the same command: repent. This is a critical step to entering the kingdom.

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Lk 13:3)

So, step one was clear. Repent. Step two at that time was to wait for the kingdom to come. But what is the kingdom and when was it coming?

Something that was confusing for the Jews, including the disciples of Jesus, was the many Old Testament prophecies about the kingdom being established. They described a triumphant militant leader who would come overthrow all the enemies of Israel and establish an everlasting throne and bring peace to the whole world. What they didn't realize back then was that those prophecies were referring to the millennial reign. This is a period of exactly 1,000 years of peace after the battle of armageddon that we are still waiting on today.

To understand the confusion they had, you have to imagine being in the position of the first century Jews. They were under Roman occupation, and eagerly awaiting the arrival of this

heroic leader to come set them all free. This is why many people didn't believe that Jesus was the real Christ. They spent their days dreaming of a liberating hero, and skimmed over the prophecies about Him also being a suffering servant.

So, when Jesus said that the kingdom was coming, they all thought He was referring to a physical kingdom. You can see evidence of this confusion in questions from the Pharisees and even questions from His own disciples. They would ask Jesus: "Show us the Kingdom," and, "When is it coming?" The responses from Jesus are clues about the real kingdom that He spoke about.

Jesus left many clues for us about the kingdom. Many were through parables, but some were more plain. Some were through analogies, but some were more specific. Let's look at the clues Jesus gave us.

Clues About The Kingdom

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field” (Mt 13:44)

Jesus often talked about the kingdom in parables. Especially to the multitudes of people who came to see Jesus. It wasn't something that was meant to be given to just anyone. The kingdom was for people who were hungry for it. It was like a “treasure hid in a field.”

Many in the multitudes followed Jesus for His miracles. However, they seldom had what it took to give up everything and follow Jesus. This is still true today. Are you willing to give up everything to find this treasure? You probably want to know what the treasure is first. Most people do. However, these parables were hard for the people to understand. Let's look at some times when Jesus spoke a little more plain.

Read John 3:1-8

In this passage, a Pharisee meets Jesus secretly at night. He begins to ask questions. To which, Jesus responds with analogies about the kingdom. He uses the analogy of childbirth, and later the sound of the wind. The man is a little confused at these words, as you can imagine. No one had ever been born more than one time, so what did Jesus mean about being born again?

The words were unclear on purpose. Remember, the kingdom is like a hidden treasure, but God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Jesus was not referring to a natural birth. He was referring to a spiritual rebirthing process. The process involved **water** and **Spirit**. These are crucial clues to what the kingdom is. Jesus said that you cannot **see** or **enter** the **kingdom** unless you are born of **water** and **Spirit**.

The next clue is found in verse 8. Jesus uses an analogy of the wind to describe being born of the Spirit. He said that you can hear the **sound** of the wind.

The New Testament was originally written in Greek. The Greek language has many words for “sound.” The Greek word that would be appropriate for the “sound of the wind” is spelled “**ichos**” in Greek. However, that is not the Greek word used in verse 8 for sound. The Greek word “**foní**” is used instead. The English equivalent to “**foní**” is voice or speech. It is where we get the words “phone” and “phonics” from.

So, Jesus is using a sort of play-on-words that is not easily caught in the English language today. He says that you can hear the speech or voice of the wind, and then He says, “So is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

So, let’s recap:

- **Repentance** is a critical first step.
- You must be born of **water** to see/enter the kingdom.
- You must be born of the **Spirit** to see/enter the kingdom.
- You will **hear** the speech/voice of everyone born of the Spirit.

The kingdom has something to do with repentance, water, and the Spirit. Let’s look at another clue.

*“And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, **the kingdom of God is within you.**” (Lk 17:20-21)*

The Pharisees were confused. Remember, they were looking for the establishment of a literal kingdom. When they looked at Jesus wandering around in normal clothes, preaching in the streets with poor fishermen and tax collectors, they could not imagine that He was the hero that would overthrow the Roman Empire and set up a new kingdom.

Jesus tells them a huge clue here. It is a clue they wouldn't have understood in real time, but looking back at His words now, we can see the hidden treasure. Jesus said don't look for something physical. **The kingdom of God is inside you.**

*Even the **Spirit** of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, **and shall be in you.**” (Jn 14:17)*

His final words to His disciples are found in the Gospels, and in chapter 1 of the book of Acts.

Read Acts 1:1-9

In verse 3, it says that Jesus spent 40 days after His resurrection and before His ascension telling the disciples **“things pertaining to the kingdom of God”**. It is my opinion that Jesus didn't talk in parables at this time. He probably

spoke very plainly to them about what the kingdom really was. Still though, they asked Him about the physical kingdom in verse 6. Jesus told them not to worry about the timing of that event. Something more pressing is about to happen soon.

He then tells them to go and wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father. He explains that the promise was the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and promises that this new baptism would happen in a few days. So, they did what Jesus said, and they waited in Jerusalem for a few days until the kingdom came.

Thy Kingdom Came

“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:4)

Just as Jesus promised, the promise came in a few days. The Holy Spirit filled them all and people could hear the speech/voice of it. The kingdom was now inside them.

Read Acts 2:1-17

When the Holy Spirit filled them, they spoke in real languages from all around the world. Languages that they could not have learned. It just so happens that this was the day of Pentecost. A Jewish holiday that brought many travelers into Jerusalem to celebrate from all over the world. The travelers heard their native languages being spoken by the followers of Jesus. They were confused. Some mocked them and called them drunk. Then the question was asked by the crowd:

“What does this mean?”

Peter stood up with the other disciples and answered the question. He said, **“this is that.”**

***This** = People speaking in languages they could not have learned. Which is why the crowd asked: “What does this mean?”*

That = *The Holy Spirit being poured out on all flesh, which was prophesied in Joel 2:28.*

Peter connected the speech with the Spirit just like Jesus did in John 3:8. Remember what Jesus said?

*The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the **sound (speech/voice)** thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: **so is every one that is born of the Spirit.***
(Jn 3:8)

When Jesus was giving clues about the coming of the kingdom, He said you must be born of water and Spirit, and that you would hear the speech/voice of that Spiritual birth. When His followers were filled with the Spirit, you heard the speech/voice of it. Peter then validated this by connecting the speech to the Spirit in Acts 2:16-17.

Then Peter proceeded to preach the Gospel. He preached about how Jesus was the Christ, and how He was crucified. Then the crowd asked a second question in verse 37:

“What shall we do?”

Peter responded to this question in verse 38.

*Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the **Holy Ghost.*** (Acts 2:38)

Remember John’s message? Repent for the kingdom is at hand. Remember Jesus’ initial message before his death and resurrection? Repent for the kingdom is at hand. Look how

Peter's message has changed after Jesus' resurrection: Repent, be baptized, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Why did the message change? Because Peter had the keys to the kingdom, and because the kingdom came on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2. Jesus told Peter in Matthew 16:19:

“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven...” (Mt 16:19).

Remember the clues from Jesus?

- The kingdom would include **water**. That's baptism.
- The kingdom would include the **Spirit**. That's the gift Holy Spirit.
- The kingdom will be **inside** you. It says they were “filled” with the Spirit in Acts 2:4.
- You can hear the **speech** of everyone being born of the Spirit. Acts 2:1-4 is the first time this happened. Acts 10:44-48 is another example. Acts 19:1-6 is yet another example. It wasn't a one time event, and Jesus said you would hear the **speech** of **everyone** born of the Spirit.

There are many people who will take you to verses of scripture that say you only need to believe to be saved. Those people have not found the treasure hidden in the field. Just like the Jews missed Jesus because they were looking for a heroic militant leader, many people today miss the kingdom because they are skipping over John 3:5 to get to John 3:16. Belief in Jesus is crucial, but don't forget the full message of Jesus.

- Repent, the kingdom is at hand. Mt 4:17
- You must be born of the water and the Spirit. Jn 3:5
- You will hear the speech of everyone born of the Spirit. Jn 3:8

- He that believes and is baptized will be saved. Mk 16:16
- You shall be filled with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. Acts 1:5
- He gave the keys of the kingdom to Peter, and then Peter preached Acts 2:38.

Repent, for the Kingdom is Here!

For a more in depth look at the subjects of Repentance, water Baptism in Jesus' Name, and the Gift of the Holy Spirit, please download my free Bible study called "Follow Him.

<https://followhim.online>

About the Author



I was born in Gadsden, AL in 1986. I'm a licensed minister with the UPCI, and I pastor a church plant in Decatur, AL called River City Pentecostals. I have 3 wonderful children and the best wife I could possibly dream of. It is my calling to reach as many souls with the truth as possible. I do this through writing, podcasting and videos. Check out all my work, or get in touch with me at jacobjones.org