

The Kingdom of God Is in the Midst of You

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 17:20-37



Big Idea

Christians live out their days in between the two advents of Christ. The kingdom of God is both already here in one sense and not-yet fully here in another sense. In view of this, we must not let ourselves be taken by either hopelessness or apathy. Christ is coming to save and to judge.

(1) The Already (vv. 20-21)

When it comes to the kingdom of God and its arrival in this world, one of the things that so perplexed the Jewish people in Christ's day was the fact that—while, from perspective of the OT Scriptures, the coming kingdom as it was promised and prophesied looked to be a single, dramatic, even cataclysmic event that would be ushered in by the Lord's anointed, the Messiah—when it actually begins to break into this world in the person and work of Jesus Christ we come to realize that there are, in fact, two phases to it, as it were—two advents, two comings. Christ comes first at Christmas—which we shall soon be celebrating—and He's coming again on the last day.

(2) The Not-Yet (vv. 22-30)

The last day, the day of the Lord, the day of the Son of Man, the day of Christ's return, will be a day both of salvation and of judgment. Noah and Lot find themselves preserved by God in grace and brought out to safety, but the evil generations around them are decimated with flood and flame.

So many people will find themselves caught unawares and unprepared. One commentator describes it well: "They were attentive to daily business as though it would last forever, and neglectful of eternity as though it would never come" (PNTC).

Before Jesus can usher in the kingdom in all its glory and power, there is something He must do first (v. 25). Before He's come to reign, He's come to die. Before He's come to sit on a throne, He's come to hang from a cross. Before He's come to wear a crown of gold, He's come to wear a crown of thorns. Before He's come to bring in the final judgment, He's come to be judged in our place! Jesus takes the lion and the bear (Amos 5:18-19). Jesus takes the flood and the fire. The lightning bolt of God's anger reserved for me strikes down upon Him. The vultures are circling over His dead body. And He does all of this first—so that sinners like you and I can come into the kingdom of God and find not judgment but salvation!

(3) The In-Between (vv. 31-37)

Action Step #1: Release—The first thing we must do, it seems to me, is let go of earthly treasure and pursuits, and instead prioritize the realities of God's kingdom both present and future (vv. 31-33).

Action Step #2: Receive—"The kingdom of God is more than escaping wrath; it is receiving eternal life from the hand of the Son of Man, and whoever receives that life can no longer yearn for the life the world offers" (PNTC).

Action Step #3: Reorient—The gospel does not remove a person from common everyday activities, it reorients him/her within them.

Reflection Questions



- In what way is the kingdom of God already present in this world? How have you experienced the effects of this personally in your own life?
- In between the first and second advents of Christ, in between phase one and phase two of the kingdom's arrival, we will be confused. We will find ourselves dejected, let down, longing for God to do something that it seems He is not doing. Have you ever felt this way? In what ways are you feeling this right now? What has helped you in the fight for faith?
- How does the gospel reorient you within your everyday activities? What does it look like to lose your life for Christ even in your sleeping, working, eating, drinking, marrying, etc.?