

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: The Already/Not-Yet Kingdom of God

**Passage: Luke 17:20-37 (ESV)**

Illustration:

Need: Jesus instructs His followers about the nature of His future second coming.

**I. A veiled answer to an insincere question (20-21)**

- The Pharisees questioned Jesus about when the visible expression of God's kingdom rule would arrive.
- Jesus responded that God's kingdom was already present in the person of the King!
- God's kingdom does not arrive visibly, rather it culminates visibly.

**II. A vague description of the distant future (22-37)**

- Jesus seems to be describing the time of His second advent or Second Coming followed by judgment.
- Disciples on mission will long for God's promises to be fully experienced but there will be more time still.
- In this time many deceptions and distractions will arise but they are not to be followed.
- The Lord's second coming will be unmistakable by all but before that day He had to suffer as our Savior.
- Between Jesus' suffering and return, life will seem normal though steeped in wickedness (**Gen. 6:5, 11**).
- Those seek to hold on to their own lives will lose it, but those willing to give up their lives in exchange for life in Christ will keep it. Remember Lot's wife who longed after the things of Sodom and perished.
- Jesus' return will come suddenly, separating those who belong to the Kingdom from those who don't.
- This judgment at the Lord's second coming will be revealed everywhere sin and death reigns.

**III. Things to remember:**

1. Entrance into God's already/not-yet kingdom is by faith alone in the work of the King Himself!
2. Debates and distractions about future things abound. Avoid getting caught up in these.
3. Circumstances might get really hard before Jesus returns. Stay focused on Christ and fear not.
4. This world is not our home. Don't waste time and resources on stuff that won't last.
5. As long as there is time the lost still have hope! Remain engaged in the gospel mission.