

The Kingdom is Real
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Luke 24:36-453

1. Pray
2. Luke! Wrapping up today! Started back in Nov 2018!. Today's message will be the 19th in our study.
 - a. That's a lot!
 - b. CONGRATS!!! Worth Celebrating!
3. Review Series:
 - a. Our King and Kingdom – nature of
 - b. Didn't read straight thru Luke, but rather focused in on vignettes. An eye for the King and Kingdom.
 - c. The UPSIDE-DOWN Kingdom
 - d. We're gonna have a little fun today, little interaction,
 - i. What are some of the stuff we've studied in Luke?
 - ii. Who can think of one way Jesus and/or His Kingdom are Upside-Down or backwards (from our perspective)
 1. *And yes, I do have small prizes!*
 2. And before we do, at the end of our time today we'll have some time to share and hear from one another about some things that have stuck with you from this series, or things God's been doing. So use this time of review also to help prime the pump for what you could share at the end.
 - iii. OK, go!
 - iv. Answers
 1. Waiting on God is valued
 - a. Value on waiting, trust in God's timing, not our own – Zechariah
 2. Unlikely Responders
 - a. Sometimes the people who respond well to God's Kingdom invitation are not who you'd expect
 - b. Mary and Elizabeth got it right, young, woman, nobody, in backwater Israel
 - c. Zechariah got it wrong – old, priest, man, in temple
 3. Upside Down Birth
 - a. Jesus' unlikely birth (no room, unwed mother, heralded by dirty shepherds)
 4. greatness in KoG through serving!
 - a. Upside Down path to greatness – very different here
 5. upside down productivity
 - a. tawG – seemingly UNPRODUCTIVE from worldly perspective
 6. King Jesus also the Suffering Servant
 - a. who will die for and at the hand of his people
 7. Gotta receive KoG like a child
 - a. no merit!
 8. Blessings and Woes backward
 - a. Blessed are the poor, the sad, the beaten down

- b. Woe to you who are rich, happy, and well-liked
 - 9. Love your enemies
 - a. **The centerpoint of the KoG**
 - 10. Jesus' unlikely Ministry Team
 - a. Disciples all misfits, rejects, dim-witted, and even co-enemies
 - 11. Spiritual Warfare
 - a. real enemy isn't people, Satan and minions
 - b. and we fight not w/ swords but with TRUTH
 - 12. King Jesus led by listening and asking questions
 - a. so many of us talk talk talk
 - 13. Relationships in the KoG are based on what I can GIVE (not get)
 - a. Upside down relationships –
 - b. giving love and care, being a truly good neighbor
 - 14. Hospitality to offer Dignity
 - a. Not just to have fun w/ your friends who will then in turn have you over
 - b. Upside-down Hospitality
 - i. similar, you engage w/ people in your home and otherwise,
 - ii. in order to offer DIGNITY to the downtrodden, poor
 - 15. Triumph in KoG shown through Humility and Sacrifice
 - a. Jesus' parades before the crowds not in splendor and power, but in a display of humility, greatness thru self-sacrifice
 - 16. The King DIES for his Enemies
 - a. King Jesus died for his enemies – you and me.
 - b. So that he could take our shame, and we get his glory.
 - 17. Sneaky King Jesus often Works Unseen
 - a. doesn't always show himself clearly
 - b. but works often unseen, FOR OUR GOOD
- 2. Today we wrap up Luke – one more way the KoG is upside down (BLANK LINE ON SLIDE _____)
 - a. As we dive in to end of Book, lets look for our final these of upside-down-ness about the nature of our King and Kingdom. Will be a fitting wrap-up theme for this series and the book of Luke
 - b. Pick up right after our story last wk about JC appearing to 2 Disciples while they were traveling to Emmaus. They were so pumped they bolted straight back to the other disciples to tell them!
- 3. Read Lk 24:36-43
 - a. Remember SNEAKY JESUS? Here he is at his most sneaky!
 - b. Account in John 20 tells us the disciples were huddled in fear of the Jewish leaders, with the doors locked
 - c. And Jesus just walks through the wall and stands among them
 - d. They flip out – THINK IT'S A GHOST
 - i. JSB pic
 - ii. Why???
 - 1. Because regular people's bodies can't walk through walls.
 - iii. And they believed JC was dead!
 - 1. Jews had no category for resurrection before end of the world

- 2. NOT predisposed to believe JC was going to rise from the dead – EVEN THOUGH they’d been told!
 - a. This subtle but powerful fact bolsters the historical case for the Resurrection of Jesus!
 - e. JC meets them right where they’re at!
 - i. Kindly – these were his FRIENDS!
 - ii. I’m not a ghost bruh -- Check out my hands and feet
 - iii. TOUCH ME
 - 1. I’ve got skin and bones
 - f. Even still they needed more assurance
 - i. JC knew what to do
 - ii. Yall got any grub? I’m starving!
 - iii. They gave him some broiled fish (rando detail that actually points toward the authenticity of the account!)
 - iv. And he took it and ate it in front of them
 - 1. AND IT DIDN’T DROP STRAIGHT THROUGH HIM TO THE FLOOR!!!!
 - g. JESUS was really – actually – physically there – alive!
 - i. This brings us to the final theme of Luke – a fitting wrapup – The unlikely admixture of the King and Kingdom –> BOTH SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL
 - 1. Or HEAVENLY and EARTHLY
 - ii. King Jesus’ body was something else – something spiritual about it... he walked through a dang wall.
 - iii. But it was also PHYSICAL – Really There! -- flesh and blood – JESUS’ same body!
 - iv. Ladies and Gentlemen, this is SO VERY IMPORTANT
 - 1. As we shall continue to see
4. Read v 44-49
 - a. See those two themes here?
 - i. Little more work required – but still very much there
 - ii. Spiritual power is coming – beyond themselves (ACTS 1:4-5) clarifies = HOLY SPIRIT
 - iii. In the context of fulfilling the mission of bearing witness to these REAL HISTORICAL EVENTS in our REAL WORLD – starting in Jerusalem and out to all nations
 - b. And more
 - i. Everything written in the scriptures had to be fulfilled
 - 1. Implicit is GOD’S INITIATIVE TO COMMUNICATE THE SCRIPTURES and make sure they happen – Spiritual dimension!
 - 2. But they’re communicated and fulfilled IN REAL BOOK, in REAL HISTORY
 - a. You can go read it. Check it out. Interview the eyewitnesses. Double check the dates.
 - c. The GOSPEL!
5. Read v 50-53
 - a. A little more here from Acts 1:6-11
 - i. Luke Acts – Vol 1 and Vol 2 of same work!
 - b. This is rich! Check it out

- c. JC has just risen from the Dead, everyone is super excited.... NOW HE'S GONNA SET UP HIS KINGDOM!!!
 - i. But He leaves -- ascends into a cloud and disappears into heaven
 - ii. Clearly he wasn't going to do it now.
 - 1. He had to ascend to heaven
 - 2. In Jewish OT scripture, common motif for clouds to represent heaven, God's presence
 - a. In this moment JESUS is fulfilling another prophetic scene from the OT
 - i. Daniel 7 – written HUNDREDS of years beforehand
 - ii. Where a god-man called The SON OF MAN rides up on a cloud to be enthroned in heaven
 - iii. THIS IS IT!!!
 - 1. JC goes out of this PHYSICAL world, into the SPIRITUAL one to ascend his throne.
 - d. But lest the disciples hearts fall, and think he's just a spiritual king, angels show up
 - i. Did you catch it?
 - ii. Angels say DON'T WORRY YALL!
 - 1. THIS EXACT SAME MAN, JESUS, will come back in the same way
 - a. THE 2nd COMING!
 - 2. From Spiritual world into the physical real one.
 - 3. HE AND HIS RETURN will be PHYSICAL – visible!
 - a. NOT merely a metaphor
 - e. HE IS A Spiritual King AND A PHYSICAL one!
 - i. REAL! In the full sense of the word!!
 - f. And His Kingdom is a spiritual Kingdom, not of this world, AND ALSO A PHYSICAL ONE, already spreading here in our midst, and will fully be eventually when he returns HERE – to our very world.
6. Remember the Q Disciples asked was not WILL you Set up your Kingdom in Israel like long prophesied.....
 - a. BUT WILL IT HAPPEN NOW?
 - b. They had a skewed perspective on God's Kingdom
 - i. Thought it would be geopolitical
 - 1. and they weren't wrong!
 - 2. Jesus said NOT YET
 - ii. But didn't realize that it was far larger than that.
 - 1. Spiritual Dimension of the King and Kingdom
 - 2. So focused on outward physical nature of KoG they missed the spiritual nature of it
 - 3. ALSO POSSIBLE TO MAKE OPPOSITE MISTAKE
 - a. Miss outward and visible aspects!
7. The King and Kingdom are BOTH Spiritual AND Physical ...
 - a. I wonder which we struggle with most?
 - b. Ironically, though we live in a Post-Enlightenment society who has largely sluffed off the concept of spiritual reality, we struggle most with the PHYSICAL (aka REAL) aspect of the King and His Kingdom
 - i. It's somewhat easy these days to "spiritualize" these things into merely metaphor, analogy, etc
 - 1. AND by this we actually don't even mean spiritual in it's true sense (for that is indeed REAL too), but we mean essentially NOT REAL

- ii. So we take the REALNESS of the Kingdom of God, and reduce it to an idea... a personal state of mind
 - 1. That is ultimately neither Physical nor Spiritual – NOT REAL at all.
 - a. Indeed this is the direct strategy of the Enemy!
- c. AND WE FORGET, STRUGGLE TO BELIEVE that Jesus is actually a REAL person, who really lived, died, and rose to physical eternal life on our planet.
 - i. And that his kingdom is actually REAL
 - 1. Truly Spiritual AND PHYSICAL TOO!
 - 2. Something we can see, taste, and touch.
 - ii. It's already here somewhat. But its still coming.
 - 1. And one day, our faith will be our eyes.
 - 2. And he will really be right here.
 - 3. And his kingdom will physically actually be here.
 - a. On this planet. Centered in Jerusalem.
 - b. And I'm going to be there! I'm going to see it with my OWN EYES!
 - iii. When The King returns, Heaven and Earth MERGE!
 - 1. Like they used to be in the garden
 - 2. But MORE! Greater!!!
 - 3. It started in a garden
 - a. It ends in a CITY!!!! A real one!
 - iv. Spiritual and Physical finally Come Together
 - 1. The dwelling place of God with man
 - 2. Never to be separated again.
 - a. Life and Light and Joy REAL as all getup --- forever and ever
 - v. Amen Lord God. Come Lord Jesus

8. Applications:

- 9. Perhaps you're here tonight and you've never chosen to accept Jesus as your King. Never applied for citizenship in THAT Kingdom.
 - a. The Risen King has thrown the door wide open, for all who would enter through his blood.
 - b. Who would renounce their citizenship in the kingdoms of this world, corrupted by sin and evil, fading away, and cast their lot in with him, accepting his forgiveness and eternal life
 - c. REAL spiritual life, that starts NOW, and will carry forward ultimately in your real, physically resurrected body.
 - d. In that real city, in his Real Kingdom.
 - e. Why not cry out to him tonight and tell him you want in, not on your merits, but on His.

10. Believers, Live like it's REALLY REAL

- a. Lets decide together to reclaim a robust view of our King and Kingdom, one that is both spiritual AND Physical.
 - i. TRULY FULLY REAL!
 - ii. How might you live differently if you really, fully believed the KoG is REAL?

11. Q&R / Testimonies

- a. What's something from this series, something about the upside-down nature of our King and Kingdom, that's stuck with you?
 - i. What's a next step of faith you sense God calling you toward?
- b. *(Put up major aspects of nature of KoG)*

12. PRAY!!!