

KINGDOM COME

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If your ears are open to the voice of God, if you are listening to hear from Him, He will speak to you. And it may surprise you how He does it!

Last week I was taking my dog, Andreas, for a walk. It was early morning, and the air was crisp, as the sun was just cresting the eastern hills.

I was stopped by an angel of the Lord. He was walking a dog, too—a pit bull mix. He was bare-footed, in the cool of the morning, wearing denim cutoffs. His long hair was hastily pulled back in a ponytail and he carried a red electric guitar, slung over his shoulder.

He asked if his dog could say hello to mine. I nodded and smiled. Then, he said to me, “You know, you may be mortal, but that doesn’t mean you’re not eternal.” Then he grinned and walked away.

I know he was an angel—a messenger of the Lord—because those words gripped me, and rolled over and over in my mind, as we continued down the street. I may be mortal, but I am also eternal, because Jesus Christ has come into my life.

I’m telling you, if you’re listening, the Lord will surely speak to you. Let’s see what He might say to us this morning...

Jesus taught His followers to pray, as we did this morning, “*Your Kingdom come.*” This is not mere wishful thinking, but an authoritative declaration, more like, “*Kingdom of God, come!*”

When you’re facing circumstances that are contrary to the design and purpose of His Kingdom, in Jesus’ name, you have been authorized to insist, “*Kingdom of God, come!*”

Today, I’d like to give you some background for what I have just described. For that, we will read the words of Jesus in Matthew 13:24-30.

Mat 13:24 Here is another story Jesus told: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. ²⁵ But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. ²⁶ When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew.

²⁷ “The farmer’s workers went to him and said, ‘Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?’

²⁸ “ ‘An enemy has done this!’ the farmer exclaimed.
“ ‘Should we pull out the weeds?’ they asked.

²⁹ “ ‘No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do.’ ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.’ ”

Jesus is speaking about the Kingdom of Heaven — a descriptor that refers to its origin (Heaven), its nature (god-like), its quality (heavenly), and its destiny (leading to Heaven).

And, this little word *of* can also be translated *from*, as in the Kingdom *from* Heaven — from outside our world, uninfected with sin and darkness — coming into our world, to reveal God’s nature and heart.

And what this story tells us about the Kingdom that comes from Heaven (the Kingdom of Jesus Christ) is that the Kingdom of Heaven prevails—it is virile, it is strong, it is enduring, it is fruitful, and it is prevailing.

It is not diminished, nor inhibited, nor undone by the “weeds” that have infiltrated it, but “*shall accomplish the purpose for which it was sent*” just as God said about His words:

Isaiah 55:11 So will the words that come out of my mouth not come back empty-handed. They’ll do the work I sent them to do, they’ll complete the assignment I gave them.

We also learn from the lips of Jesus that “weediness” is not contagious; you can’t catch it from living among the weeds.

Nor can the weeds catch holiness from living among the righteous. Both natures come directly from their fathers. It’s in their DNA.

John 3:6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

John 8:42 Jesus replied, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come from God and am now here.

John 8:44 You people are from your father the devil, and you want to do what your father desires.

Jesus affirms that the future of this coming Kingdom, the outworking of its character and purpose, is secure, certain, and assured.

God will sort it all out in the end. He can tell the weeds from the wheat. Don’t sweat it. Be patient. Trust in the Lord.

The ministry of the Gospel, the proclamation of the Kingdom is a “no sweat” work, unlike the cursed work of Adam:

Genesis 3:19 *By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.”*

The prophet Ezekiel described the work of the priests and the garments they were to wear in a similar aspect:

Ezekiel 44:17 *“When they enter the gateway to the inner courtyard, they must wear only linen clothing. They must wear no wool while on duty in the inner courtyard or in the Temple itself. ¹⁸ They must wear linen turbans and linen undergarments. They must not wear anything that would cause them **to perspire**.*

Kingdom work is not to be done by mere human effort, or attempted in mere human strength (causing perspiration). It requires the wisdom of God, the blessing of God, and the provision of God. Remember, Jesus said, *“Apart from me, you can do nothing”* (John 15:5). He wasn’t kidding.

If that were all Jesus had to communicate through that story, that would be enough, but there’s more, as we may see just a few verses later (Matthew 13:36-43), when His disciples ask Him for an explanation:

Matthew 13:36 *Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, “Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field.”*

³⁷ *Jesus replied, “The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. ³⁹ The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels.*

⁴⁰ *“Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world.*

⁴¹ *The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!*

The seeds of the Kingdom are *people*. People who know their King. People whose lives honor their King. Children who are like their Heavenly Father.

There is an enemy, and he has people, too. He works through people, just as God works through people.

Jesus also explains that there will be an end of the world-as-we-know-it. There will be a final separation — the righteous from the wicked. There is a Heaven to gain and a Hell to shun. *“Weeping and gnashing of teeth”* is like an emoticon, a word-picture of the emotions generated by eternal separation from the presence of God and His Kingdom.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

In the Final Harvest, *“everything that causes sin and all who do evil”* will be removed, Jesus said.

Hebrews 12:26 When God spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but now he makes another promise: “Once again I will shake not only the earth but the heavens also.” ²⁷ This means that all of creation will be shaken and removed, so that only unshakable things will remain.

²⁸ Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. ²⁹ For our God is a devouring fire.

Do not fear the shaking. Do not despair when it comes (and it will come). The things of the Kingdom are unshakable; they are rock solid. If you are wearing Kingdom shoes and walking Kingdom paths, you will be secure. Therefore, live in the Kingdom.

Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out—but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity. (1 John 2:15-17)

“Set for eternity” means unshakable. Enduring. Dependable.

“Then the godly will shine like the sun.” What (and who) is obscured in the shadow of this dark hour, will be highlighted in that glorious day, and God will receive the praise for what He has done.

“Our Father in Heaven, Your name be revered. Your kingdom come. Your will be done. As in Heaven, so on earth.” Jesus told us to pray this way.

“Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!”

Do you realize what you have been given? God has put eternity in your heart! Live like a child of eternity. You may be mortal, but that doesn't mean you aren't eternal.

Let's step into our authority in Christ today.

What is one situation in your life, or the life of someone close to you, that you are sure is not according to God's Kingdom, but is of this evil world and its darkness?

Perhaps it is a brokenness.

Perhaps it is a bondage.

Perhaps it is an illness.

Perhaps it is a sinful lifestyle.

Perhaps it is a fearfulness.

Perhaps it is a shamefulness.

Perhaps it is a depression.

In the name of Jesus Christ, prepare to renounce it, resist it, and command it to go.

The things of this world are passing away. We are just urging them along!

The things of the Kingdom of Heaven are coming here. We are just welcoming them now!

Do not merely *wish* it were different. Do not *ask* for it to be taken away. Instead, in the name of Jesus, tell it to go. Utter a command.

Do not doubt. Be assured. Be fierce!

Kingdom of God, come!