

Life Group Lesson

The Holy Spirit and the Kingdom

April 17, 2011

Read Luke 17:20-21

1. How would you describe the Kingdom of God?
2. Jesus said the kingdom of God did not come by careful observation or attentive watching. He was telling the Pharisees that you could not see it or measure it in human terms (they were looking for a sign). The Kingdom begins inside of every believer but doesn't stay there. **Where did Jesus say the Kingdom of God was located?**
3. On the Day of Pentecost the words "the Kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21) and, "the Kingdom of God come in power" (1 Corinthians 4:20) were fulfilled. The Holy Spirit brought down out of heaven the Kingdom of God into the hearts of the disciples and they went forth and preached the Gospel of the Kingdom not as coming but had already come. **Where should the Kingdom of God be expressed? What empowers us to express His Kingdom?**
4. **Is the Kingdom of God within you? Is it being expressed through your life?**

Read John 14:16-17

1. Who is our advocate to build the Kingdom of God? Where does He live? How do we know what the Kingdom of God is to be about and look like (end of v. 17)?

Read John 14:12

1. Jesus said we would do greater works than He was doing while on earth. **How is this possible? Is this true about your life?**
2. What happened to give us power to build the Kingdom after Jesus went to the Father (when He ascended)? (See Acts 1:8)
3. Jesus was referring to a greater footprint or extension of the works. He was referring to a greater extent of the spiritual miracle of salvation. Jesus never preached outside of Palestine but the disciples would preach throughout the world. Jesus had only a limited outreach to Gentiles (Mark 7:26). The disciples would reach the Gentile world with the Gospel. The number of believers the disciples reached would grow exponentially beyond that of Jesus' lifetime. We have the same power to do the same miracles but there will be a greater number of them because the Holy Spirit now indwells and empowers all believers.

Read John 7:37-39

1. Jesus offers living water to all those who are thirsty. **What promise does Jesus offer every believer in Him?**
2. Believers are to be channels through which the rivers of living water are sent to others. The believer is not to be self-centered. As he receives the gift of God, he passes it on to others. **Are you self-centered or are you giving the gifting and grace of God away to others?**
3. Jesus was not saying that the Holy Spirit was not present or active at that time or in the past. He was simply saying that unique power would come to all believers through the giving of the Spirit to do ministry and evangelism. **Are you using the power of the Holy Spirit in your life to do ministry and evangelism? Can you tell me about your ministry? Can you tell me about your evangelism?**

Read Luke 4:18-19

1. For what purposes was the Spirit of the Lord upon Jesus?
2. Why is the Spirit of the Lord upon believers?
3. The word "anointed" means "set apart and empowered for special service". **Are you anointed? Are you walking in that anointing?**
4. Each of the four metaphors here depict the desperate condition of needy sinners whom God seeks to rescue from hell. People may see themselves as rich, free, healthy, and unhindered but in reality are poor, prisoners, blind and oppressed without salvation from Christ. Only through salvation in Christ can they be rescued. This is the work of the kingdom of God. We are to proclaim the Good News, freedom, recovery, and salvation (the year of the Lord's favor). **Are these statements true about your ministry? Are you establishing your own kingdom or God's kingdom?**