

From Pastor's Desk...

The Power of God's Kingdom in Deliverance

The theme the Kingdom of God (*bassileia tou theou* -Greek) was central in the teachings of Jesus Christ (Mk. 1:14-15; Mt. 4:23; Lk. 4:21). The expression "time is fulfilled", indicates that the kingdom of God is ultimately tied to Messianic Jewish expectations. The prayer taught by Jesus, "thy Kingdom come: thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Lk. 11:2-4) is significant to understand the truth.

George Elden Ladd writes in his article, *The Gospel of the Kingdom*, this prayer is a petition for God to reign, to manifest his kingly sovereignty and power, to put to fight every enemy of righteousness and of His divine rule that God alone may be King over the world.

The Kingdom of God is "within you", stated by Jesus is difficult for the hearers to understand and have different opinions. (a). The Kingdom of God is essentially God's reign in the individual soul. (b). The Kingdom of God is 'in your midst' in the person of Jesus.

We find the fulfilment of Messianic prophesy in Jesus, the anointed who proclaimed the good news to the poor and the coming of the year of the Lord's favor (Lk 4: 4-30). God's great eschatological day had finally dawned through His own compassionate ministry, in healing the sick, casting out demons, and eating with sinners or identifying with the common people.

- The Kingdom of God means the destruction of Satan's reign. The world is divided between the darkness and light, between the power of God and the power of Satan (Acts 26:18). Jesus said, If I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you (Lk. 11:18-20. Luke joins the preaching of the Kingdom with power and authority over demons and to cure diseases (8:1-3; 9:1-2,11; 10:9).
- To enter the Kingdom of God has to be equivalent to being saved. Jesus observes how hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God. Indeed, it's easier for the Camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God (Lk. 18:24-26).
- The Kingdom of God is realized truly in the Spirit-filled and Christ -centered life, but its consummation is in the future. The Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans. 14:17).

God bless you.

In His glorious service,

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Kingdom of God is in your midst

Sis. Jasmi Joshi

In Luke 17:20–21, Jesus says, "The Kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Look here it is!' or 'There it is!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is in your midst". The situation of Jesus' statement is a question that was asked to Him by Pharisees about when the kingdom of God would come (verse 20).

Jesus was telling the Pharisees that He brought the Kingdom of God to earth. Jesus presence in their midst gave them a taste of the kingdom life, as proven by the miracles that He performed. Jesus says, the kingdom had already begun as the King Himself was standing among them, although, the Pharisees were ignorant to the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Those who receive the gospel of the kingdom become citizens of heaven and are freed from bondage of this world (Galatians 4:3–9). Second Corinthians 5:20 refers to God's children as "ambassadors" for our heavenly Father. Just as earthly foreign ambassadors hold on to their national identity while representing their country in another, the spiritual ambassadors of God's kingdom owe their allegiance to God even when they live in this world. We must follow our heavenly Father's code of conduct while sojourners on earth. We need not adapt to this world's values, routines, and way of life, because this is not our home (Romans 12:1–2; 1 John 2:15–17).

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). So, although we must live here until God calls us home, we are not to live for ourselves or according to this world's values or principles. Those who have been bought by the blood of Jesus have been given the right to live according to God's value system. Citizens of the Kingdom of God live here on assignment from our Father the King and are responsible for making wiser decisions as we devote our lives in furthering the gospel of the kingdom.

Although, Christ's kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36), one day the Kingdom of God will be manifested on the earth (Isaiah 35:1), and Jesus Christ will rule a physical kingdom from David's throne (Isaiah 9:7) with Jerusalem as His capital. (Zechariah 8:3). So, as Citizens of the Kingdom of God, let us focus our life on Christ- the triumphant Savior, standing at the right hand of God.