

His Kingdom Come, Oct. 22-25, 2025

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? *Circle Two Opportunity...*

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth and 2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

Judges 6:11–14 (ESV) ¹¹ Now the angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, “The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor.” ¹³ And Gideon said to him, “Please, my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.” ¹⁴ And the Lord turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?”

➤ *Why has all this happened to us?*

John 3:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

✠ Did Jesus come to deliver us from this world?

John 18:33-37 (ESV) ³³ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” ³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

✠ Jesus comes as a king. To build a kingdom here.

➤ *The start of Jesus’ ministry*

Mark 1:14-15 (ESV) ¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Matthew 6:9-10 (ESV) ⁹ Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

1. The Kingdom of God is at hand!

Matthew 10:1, 7-11 (ESV) And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. ⁹ Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. ¹¹ And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart.

2. The Kingdom is a manifestation of God's Promise

➡ For the people who learned from Jesus and who authored the New Testament, their era would have felt like the end of history.

- ◆ 63 BC – Rome conquers Jerusalem, marking the end of the rule of the Hasmonean Maccabee dynasty.
- ◆ 27 BC – The Roman civil war, the rise of Caesar Augustus.
- ◆ 30 AD – The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus
- ◆ 64 AD – The Great Fire of Rome, leading to greatly increased persecution of Jesus' followers
- ◆ 70 AD – The second Roman siege of Jerusalem, the destruction of the Temple.

Jesus knew what he was doing!

Mark 13:1-2 (ESV) And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" ² And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

➡ In the midst of the global chaos Jesus and his disciples lived through, Jesus' ministry subverted everything the Jews expected the Messiah to be.

➡ From the beginning, God's chosen people desired a king

Exodus 19:5-6 (ESV) Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

Judges 8:23 (ESV) Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you; the Lord will rule over you."

1 Samuel 8:7 (ESV) And the Lord said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.

➡ Jesus and the Holy Spirit take the plan God had in mind from those early days and make it real for us

Matthew 22:15-21 (ESV) Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. ¹⁶ And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" ²¹ They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

John 6:11-15 (ESV) Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" ¹⁵ Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Luke 13:1-3 (ESV) There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Acts 1:6-9 (ESV) So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

3. Jesus laid the foundation and set the example for us to live in the Kingdom today

Luke 17:20-21 (ESV) Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, ²¹ nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

"The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. He that now feels these, feels the kingdom of God within him." – *John Wesley*

"Love is the fulfilling of the law, the essence of all true religion, the kingdom of God within us." – John Wesley

"Jesus was not talking about how to get to heaven after you die. He was talking about how God's kingdom was coming to birth on earth as in heaven." – *N. T. Wright*

...But more is coming!

1 John 3:2 (ESV) Beloved, we are God's children **now**, and what we will be has **not yet** appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Matthew 13:31-33 (ESV) He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³² It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³ He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

Takeaways:

