

When is Help from God Coming?

KSBC 10/26/08

Luke 17:20 - 18:8

INTRO When is help from God coming? When is God going to step into this world, make everything right and do away with pain and suffering? When is the kingdom of God coming? This is the question that was asked of Jesus and Luke records his answer for our benefit and encouragement.

This is the same question that many of us ask on a fairly consistent basis as we both observe and experience the real impact of evil on lives, families and nations. On our recent visit to South Africa we were vividly reminded of the injustice and suffering in our world as we met a young mother and her baby, both infected with HIV and on aggressive medications. We also were exposed to refugees who had to flee their country, entire families who now have nothing because they are not recognized by South Africa either. Stories of pain, suffering, injustice and oppression abound both around the world as well as here at home. When will it stop? How will it stop?

For those questioning Jesus, this is a real question as they lived daily under the oppression of a foreign power. How do you answer this question? When is God going to step into this world, make everything right and do away with pain and suffering? How do you answer it when others ask it of you? Some of you are more than ready to admit that whatever is wrong with this world and our lives, God is the only one who can fix it. We know in our hearts that politics, the economy, relationships, technology, entertainment and religion are helpless or at least have not been effective thus far. So . . . when is God going to step into this world, make everything right and do away with pain and suffering?

Let's look at the question and the three answers that Jesus gives recorded in Luke 17:20 – 18:8.

Luke 17:20 – 18:8

The question – when is God's kingdom coming?	17:20
The Kingdom is here now.	17:20-21
The Kingdom is coming later.	17:22-37
In the mean time, persevere.	18:1-8

The three answers in this extended passage are . . .

- 1. He already has, Jesus powerfully delivers from sin now. 21**
- 2. He will in the future, Jesus will come and establish his Kingdom. 22-37**
- 3. In the mean time, work hard for the kingdom and persevere. 8:1-8**

This morning we will look at the first answer to understand how God's kingdom is here now, right in our midst.

Wrestle with the question . . . v.20

1. The question acknowledges the need for help.

Kingdom of God - God's rule over his people in Christ in victory over sin and death

- Expectation of divine visitation to establish justice and end opposition, suffering

- Promise of all scripture that God will intervene – 27x in Luke; 1:32-33

2. The question reveals certain prejudices. (Preconceived notions, bias)

- What is the real problem?
Real problem versus perceived problem – what do people need help with?
Injustice, suffering, pain, taxation or the power and presence of evil
- What kind of solution are you looking for?
Signs, popular concepts, religious ideals
Jesus and Pharisees have had conflict over this bias – L 11:37-54
- If the answer was in front of you, would you accept it?
Why ask the question when you have rejected angelic displays, miracles, healings, teaching from the scriptures, raising dead people, overpowering evil spirits and the evidence of changed lives?

L:11:14-23

When is God going to step into this world, make everything right and do away with pain and suffering?

Answer #1 – He already has, Jesus powerfully delivers from sin now. 21

The way into the Kingdom of God is Jesus. He controls kingdom benefits, power and presence.

'the kingdom of God is within you' in your presence; before you

Gen 3 fall/sin sets up entire kingdom of God program – Rev. 11:15; Psa. 2:1-2; Eph.2:2

Through Jesus, God steps into your world to . . .

1. Overcome the power of evil. L11:14-20

1Peter 2:9-10
Romans 5:17-21

2. Forgive the penalty of sin. L5:20 L7:48

L1:77
Matt.26:28

3. Announce the good news of freedom. L9:60 L 24:44-49

Isa 40:9
Isa 52:7

4. Empower you to live differently. L3:15-18 L24:44-49

Jn 14:1-4; 15-18
Jn 16:5-11

Here it is!

1. Renew your energy and efforts to promote and proclaim savior and king Jesus.
2. Acknowledge and repent of seeking other agendas first before God's kingdom in Christ.
3. Turn from your self rule and embrace the blessings of kingdom life in Christ by faith.

Study Questions

1. What questions, observations or impressions do you have from the study on Luke 17:20-21?
2. Read Luke 17:20-37. What are key words or phrases? Is there a theme that ties the verses together?
3. Read John 14:1-4; Acts 1:11; 1Cor. 16:22; 1John 2:28 and Rev. 22:20. What is the promise of these verses and how does it impact your life and behavior?
4. When is God going to step into this world, make everything right and do away with pain and suffering? Do you really have a message of hope and power today for people enslaved by the power of sin and Satan? Compare Romans 1:16-17
5. Why is it necessary to understand the fall of man, Satan and sin from Genesis 3 to understand the nature and progress of the kingdom of God? What is the resistance to God's Kingdom? Who or what is the enemy that must be overcome? What is the life and death of Jesus dedicated to provide?
6. Describe what the response of the Pharisees may have been when they heard Jesus answer to their question . . . the Kingdom is right here in front of you (21).
7. Share with the group the ways or evidence that you see in your life that the kingdom of God is present, right in front of you. Review the four ways that Jesus changes lives for ideas . . . what ways are lives changing, being delivered from sin, around you?
8. What do you want to do, use or remember from today's study?