

THE CHURCH & THE KINGDOM PART 5 - The Birth of a Kingdom

Small Group Notes

Matt 4:17 *From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

Jesus is now starting to preach about the kingdom. He had already been baptized and he had also been tempted by the devil.

Why do you think it was important that these things would happen before Jesus started his ministry?

Matt 12:26 *And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?*

After being accused of using satanic powers to cast out demons, Jesus asks this question. Two truths here: (1) Satan's forces stay united, and (2) Satan has a kingdom of his own.

How do those two facts affect the church today?

Matt 12:28 *But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*

The kingdom of God is about spiritual authority.

What are some ways you would know the kingdom of God is working in our midst?

Luke 13:18 *He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? **19** It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."*

Which do you think represent truth from this verse?

A. "In the kingdom of God churches grow like crazy."

B. "The influence of Christ will eventually rule the world."

C. "Our faith begins small, but grows as we know Jesus more."

Luke 17:20-21 *Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed, 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 a presence, not a trend or a movement.

How do you differentiate between the presence of God and hype?

Why is the presence of God so much better?

You can recap this session's video on Friday by visiting:
vimeo.com/channels/hosanna