

“The Gospel According to Luke:
What is the Kingdom of God?” (Part 1)
Luke 17:20-37 (20-21)

“The Kingdom of God is a major theme of the Scriptures. An understanding of the Kingdom of God helps us tie together the whole of the Scriptures.” (cf. Acts 1:3; 28:30-31)

— Micheal Vlach

- Kingdom of God basics:
 - **The Universal Kingdom:** as Creator, God has every right to rule, the Father rules over all that He has been created — and He actively rules and reigns over all things, accomplishing all His purposes.
 - *“For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and He does according to His will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay His hand or say to Him, ‘What have you done?’” (Daniel 4:34b-35)*
 - **The Mediatorial Kingdom** may be defined as the rule of God through a divinely chosen representative who speaks and acts for God. Its mediatorial ruler is always a member of the human race. God uses these “rulers” to reveal Himself and His plan of salvation, ultimately seen **in Jesus Christ**.
 - Jesus is King of **a spiritual kingdom** (John 17:3; Romans 8:2).
 - Jesus will also be **King over the Geo-political nations** (Psalm 2:8-9; Revelation 19:15; Zechariah 9:10; 14:9,16-19; Isaiah 2:2-4).
 - Jesus will also **be King as He restores all of Creation** (Isaiah 11; Hosea 2:18; Romans 8:19-22; Genesis 49:8-12; Psalm 72:16; Colossians 1:15-20).
- Israel’s Expected Kingdom:
 - The Kingdom that Israel was expecting was the earthly kingdom, where the Messiah would rule and reign from Jerusalem.
 - The Kingdom comes first in the hearts of believers and then the Kingdom will culminate in Christ’s Millennial Reign.
 - *“Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.... Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’” (John 3:3,5; cf. Ezekiel 36:24-27; Titus 3:5)*
 - *“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” (Matthew 3:1-2). “From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” (Matthew 4:17)*
- Luke 17:20-21:
 - The Spiritual Kingdom is not seen in signs, it is seen in a transformed life. *“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating or drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17)*

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of February, we are collecting monetary donations for the Lamb Family. Please see the February Newsletter and the board at the back of the sanctuary for more information about this collection.

★**GREETING MINISTRY MEETING:** We are having a Greeting Ministry Meeting TODAY, immediately following the worship service. If you currently serve in that ministry, or if you are interested in serving in that ministry, please plan on staying for this meeting! For any questions, please see Shawn Bailey.

★**CHURCH NIGHT OF PRAYER:** Our monthly Church Night of Prayer is TONIGHT, from 5:30-7pm. During this prayer time we will be praying for specific prayer requests within the church body. Please consider joining us for a portion of this time or for the full time of prayer.

★**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** We are having a Fellowship Lunch NEXT Sunday, February 8th, immediately following the worship service. The sign-up list that is on the table in the Entryway is from the Fellowship Lunch that was originally scheduled for last Sunday. If you haven't already signed up to bring something, or if you need to be reminded what you signed up to bring, or need to change what you signed up to bring, please make sure to do so! As always, everyone is invited to stay to enjoy the food and the fellowship with us next Sunday!

★**NEW MEMBERS' CLASS:** If you are interested in becoming a Church Member, or have any questions about Church Membership, we are having a New Members' Class on Sunday, February 15th, and on Sunday, February 22nd, at 9am. There is a sign-up list on the table in the Entryway, please sign up if you want to participate in this class. For any questions, please see Pastor Zach.

★*For all other announcements, please see the February Newsletter!*