

Luke 17:20-37

In the latter part of Luke 17, we see Jesus discuss the realities of the Kingdom of God with the Pharisees, and His followers. He enlightens them to the reality that the Kingdom has both come, and not yet come. And He warns them that, though it is within their reach, deception, distractions, and misplaced desires will keep them from it if they are not careful.

READ

What do we learn about the Kingdom?

20 Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; 21 nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."

• **The Kingdom has come! It is fulfilled.**

1. The Pharisees thought that the KOG would come with such observable signs that it would be unmistakable: Rome would be overturned, Israel would be vindicated, and an earthly kingdom would be established.
2. Jesus said, "No, it is already here in your midst without those kinds of observable signs. It is here because I am here.
3. Matthew 12:28 *But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*
4. Luke 11:20 *But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*
5. The Kingdom has come!

"Fulfillment of the kingdom is here; but consummation of the kingdom is not. Many kingdom blessings can be experienced today; many are reserved for the consummation and the coming of Jesus." George Ladd

• **The Kingdom is yet to come! It will be consummated**

1. It is clear that we aren't living in the final state of the Kingdom
 - a. There are still wars, famines, pestilences
 - b. And I haven't noticed any lions lounging with any lambs lately...have you?
 - c. Creation is groaning!
 - d. Romans 8:23 *And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.*
2. The kingdom now is limited in its scope and effects.
3. The power of the kingdom gathers many into its net that will be cast out at the consummation.

4. Matthew 13:47-50 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind; 48 and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. 49 So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, 50 and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

• **The Kingdom is Within Reach** v21b

behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.

The kingdom of God is in your midst...literally, within your reach. But....

1. There are forces at work to keep you either:
 - a. Out of it altogether
 - b. Or Ineffective in it.
2. Those forces use at least 3 primary tactics to keep the KOG out of our reach.

Now pay attention unbeliever because these are the 3 primary tactics Satan uses to keep you out of the Kingdom! Pay attention ineffective believer because these are the 3 primary tactics Satan uses to keep you ineffective!

1. Deception v22-25

22 And He said to the disciples, “The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. 23 They will say to you, ‘Look there! Look here!’ Do not go away, and do not run after them. 24 For just like the lightning, when it flashes out of one part of the sky, shines to the other part of the sky, so will the Son of Man be in His day. 25 But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

- a. The kingdom is within reach through the gospel, but they want something else..something more.
- b. The Gospel is plan A, B, C, and all of the above. There is no other way!
- c. If the Gospel is not enough, you will be easily deceived.
 1. Gospel + Success...the self helps pastors will deceive you
 2. Gospel + health or wealth...the TBN health, wealth, prosperity guys
 3. Gospel + miracles...any manipulative charlatan out there...
 4. Gospel + anything is a set up for deceptions!!
 5. Matthew 24:23-25 *Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him. 24 For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. 25 Behold, I have told you in advance.*
- d. Don’t be deceived because you want a sign or something more than what has been given
 1. Luke 11:29-30 *As the crowds were increasing, He began to say, “This generation is a wicked generation; it seeks for a sign, and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah. 30 For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.*

2. The Gospel must be our focus and enough!

2. Distractions v26-30

26 And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; 29 but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.

a. Honestly, I wonder if this isn't Satan's greatest tactic. We are so distracted.

1. 56% of teens 13-17 years old play video games 2 1/2 hours a day!
2. 66% of children 8-12 play video games 2 hours per day
3. Adults watch 4 hours of TV every night AND...AND....spend 7 1/2 hours a day on digital media: FB, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube, Tik Tok etc.
4. We have such an overwhelming amount of information...a glut of information...that all we can do is just gather more and never process what we have or act on what we have.
5. Distractions!!

b. The devil knows that no one slips up...we slip down! No one is going to slip into holiness.

1. We must strive
2. We won't strive as long as we are distracted with what the world says are better things

3. Desires v31-33

31 On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back. 32 Remember Lot's wife. 33 Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

a. Matthew 24:17-18 *Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. 18 Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.*

b. Where are your desires?

1. Colossians 3:1-4 *Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.*

2. Matthew 6:33 *But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

Conclusion:

34 I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left. 35 There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken and the other will be left. 36 [Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left.] 37 And answering they said to Him, "Where, Lord?" And He said to them, "Where the body is, there also the vultures will be gathered."

The KOG has come...fulfilled...and the KOG is coming...to be consummated. It is within our reach, but will....

1. Deceptions keep us out?
2. Distractions keep us out?
3. Desires....that are misplaced to keep you out, or at least ineffective in it.

God help us!

1. Are you going to avoid deception? Some advice...
 - a. The bible calls the church the pillar and support of the truth.
 - b. So, be very selective in who you listen to outside of your local church
 - c. We have seen so many super star preachers fall into false teaching and into disgrace that affects so many...I don't trust anyone in ministry who wears cuff links.
 - d. Be faithful to your local church...the pillar and support of the truth.
2. Are you going to avoid distractions? Some advice...
 - a. Greatest advice given to a business man: Make a list and finish one task before moving on the next was worth \$100,000.
 - b. Prioritize your day...put your phone away...delete social media (impossible!...do you hear how ridiculous that sounds?)
3. Are you going to avoid misplaced desires? Some advice...
 - a. Meditate on Christ! Discipline yourself to know Him and experience Him
 - b. Psalm 16:11 *You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.*
 - c. Psalm 42:1-2 *As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?*
 - d. We need to see that Christ is better.

Jesus really unveils for us a powerful word on how how to avoid falling for these tactics next week!

Are you going to do anything about these 3 tactics that Satan is using to keep you out of the kingdom...or at least ineffective in the kingdom? Is He worth it or not?