

**Sermon Text:** Luke 17:20-18:8 Enjoying and Desiring the Kingdom of Christ

**Jesus calls you to enjoy His kingdom while you desire its consummation.**

**1) You can enjoy the Kingdom of God now through faith (17:20-21).**

- a) The Pharisees' misguided question:
  - i) Misunderstands the nature of the kingdom
  - ii) Misunderstands the signs of its arrival
- b) Jesus' three-part answer:
  - i) Not the kind of signs you're looking for (17:20b).
  - ii) Not localized in human power-centers, whether elitist or popular (17:21a). The reign of God is universal and transcendent.
  - iii) It is in the midst of you (17:21b). You could see it, if you had eyes to see (faith).
- c) **Application:**
  - i) Do not judge God's reign by superficial appearances. Listen to His Word to learn His ways, and then take another look at the world.
  - ii) There is much at which to marvel and rejoice when you see the Kingdom through faith in Christ.

**2) You can desire the consummation of the Kingdom of God through hope.**

**a) The Christian's Hope the Soul's Desire (17:22):**

- i) The Revelation of the Glory of Christ (17:30)
- ii) The Just Judgment of the Wicked (17:22, 26-30)
  - (1) Days of Noah—wicked generation
  - (2) Days of Lot (Sodom)—wicked city
  - (3) They seem to sin without any penalty. Life carries on as usual: "eating and drinking, marrying and . . . buying and selling, planting and building"
  - (4) They were deluded: "and the flood came and destroyed them all" (17:27) and "fire and sulphur rained from heaven and destroyed them all" (17:29; 2 Pet. 3:1-10).
- iii) The Vindication of the Saints (17:33-35)
  - (1) Saints will be vindicated from the shame of persecutors and naysayers, just as Noah and Lot were vindicated in the judgment of the wicked in their generation.
  - (2) Judgment brings new meaning to "life" (17:33)
  - (3) Judgment distinguishes saints from wicked (17:34-35)
- iv) Is this judgment the destruction of Jerusalem or the final judgment at Christ's return?  
Both/and not either/or

**b) Application:** You can stir that desire by guarding your hope:

- i) Enjoy the presence of the King now.
- ii) Meditate on the glory of Christ to be revealed then.
- iii) Expect hardship now (17:22; 17:25).
- iv) Resist false hopes (17:23).
- v) Resist inordinate desires for fading things (17:31-33).
  - (1) Keep running to Christ when judgment comes (17:31).

- (2) Keep looking to Christ once you're free (17:32).
- (3) Lose "life" to secure LIFE.
- (4) "Remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles" (2 Peter 3:2). The world will be judged (17:37; Rev. 18:4).
- vi) Always pray that God will vindicate His elect (18:1-8).
  - (1) This parable urges us to prayer and courage (18:1).
  - (2) Argument from lesser to greater:
    - (a) If this unjust judge . . . then surely God will . . .
    - (b) If this widow . . . then surely you should . . .
  - (3) Whose time table (18:7-8 "delay long?" "speedily")?
- vii) "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?" (18:8b).