

Lessons From the Second Coming

Luke 17:20-37

1/7/01

Intro

[It's a New Year and a good time to re-evaluate our priorities.]

We have been focusing on the coming of Jesus to earth 2000 years ago, but these verses today are about the coming of Christ in the future.

The discussion occurs because the Pharisees want to know when the Kingdom of God was coming. They're challenging Him probably because he doesn't seem to fit their expectations of the Messiah.

There are valuable lessons we can learn from Christ as he teaches them about the days to come.

This message is about the lessons we can learn from Jesus' teaching concerning the last days.

I. The Kingdom of God is in your midst.

Vs 20-21

A. It's not seen by outward manifestations such as political or military revolutions.

- They longed for the glory days of David and Solomon. When Israel was a force to be reckoned with.

- They had been humiliated for many years.
- The problem was that they were more focused on their kingdom than on God's.
- But the Kingdom was not coming by force, but by *humility*. It was something to be sought. (*Seek first the Kingdom of God...*)

B. The Kingdom of God was spiritual in nature.

- Jesus was among them, yes.
- And He was submitted to His Father in heaven. (An example)

"I do what I see my Father doing."
"I say what my Father wants me to say."

C. The Kingdom of God is making heavenly changes in people's hearts.

- You are a temple of the Holy Spirit.
- People carry the Kingdom of God around with them.
- *It's evidenced by godly change in people's lives.*

Illus- A missionary in Laos discovered an illustration of the kingdom of God. Before the colonialists imposed national boundaries, the kings of Laos and Vietnam reached an

agreement on taxation in the border areas. Those who ate short-grain rice, built their houses on stilts, and decorated them with Indian-style serpents were considered Laotians. On the other hand, those who ate long-grain rice, built their houses on the ground, and decorated them with Chinese-style dragons were considered Vietnamese. The exact location of a person's home was not what determined his or her nationality. Instead, each person belonged to the kingdom whose cultural values he or she exhibited.

II. Yet the Kingdom of God is Not Secretive or Mystifying.

Vs 22-24

A. Do not be deceived by false messiahs or false teachings.

- People search for things new and different.

Illus- We have to be the first with the new color that's "in."
We love inside information and special knowledge.

B. People seek after the latest spiritual trend as well.

- They're still looking for outward manifestations – barking, laughing, miracles, wonders, etc.
- But the Kingdom is seen best in the character of Christ within us.

C. Jesus will reveal Himself for all to see

III. Don't Look Back.

A. Don't have your heart attached to the things of the world.

- The value of spiritual things vs earthly things.

B. Don't look longingly back to the things of the world.

- "Remember Lot's wife," Jesus said.

C. God will give us what we really want.

- If you really want worldliness, you can have it. The same is true with godliness.
- See Romans 1:24

Conclusion

**The Kingdom of God is in our midst in the same way.
Now is the time to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.**

Look forward rather than back to the world.