

Luke 17:20-25

²⁰When asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The kingdom of God will not come with observable signs. ²¹Nor will people say, ‘Look, here it is,’ or ‘There it is.’ For you see, the kingdom of God is in your midst.”

²²Then He said to the disciples, “The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. ²³People will tell you, ‘Look, there He is!’ or ‘Look, here He is!’ Do not go out or chase after them. ²⁴For just as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other, so will be the Son of Man in His day. ²⁵But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

Berean Study Bible

1

From False to Fabulous. Luke 17:20-25

The Kingdom is not a place. 17:20-21

False expectations. 20a “not with observable signs”

Faulty extensions. 20b-21a “Look, here it is”

Factual expressions. 21b “the kingdom of God is in your midst”

The Kingdom is a person. 17:22-25

False expectations. 22 “eating and drinking”

Faulty extensions. 23 “Look, there He is”

Factual expressions. 24 “just as the lightning flashes”

First experience. 25 “first He must suffer many things”

2

The day you’ve been waiting for. Luke 17:20-25

Unseen Kingdom. 17:20-21

Unseen by the unsaved. 20a “asked by the Pharisees”

No accompanying signs. 20b-21a “not with observable signs”

Kingdom is already here. 21b “the kingdom of God is in your midst”

Unveiled King. 17:22-25

Seen by the saved. 22a “He said to the disciples”

No preceding signs. 23-24 “just as the lightning flashes”

King has already been here. 25 “But first He must suffer”

Thy Kingdom comes. Luke 17:20-25

The Kingdom has come. 17:20-21

This is not an event, but an experience. 20 “when... would come.”

This is not an address, but an attitude. 21a “Look, here it is”

This is not to be looked for, but lived out. 21b “is in your midst”

The King is coming. 17:22-25

He is not coming to relive the past. 22 “see one of the days”

He is not coming to reproduce this world. 23 “Do not go out...”

He is not coming with time for change. 24 “as the lightning flashes”

He is coming to reverse His rejection. 25 “first He must suffer”

This Kingdom and this King. Luke 17:20-25

The Kingdom came with the King. 17:20-21

The Kingdom is objective, but not observable. 20 “not with observable signs”

The Kingdom is personal, public, and practical. 21 “is in your midst”

The King is coming for His Kingdom. 17:22-25

The King is coming as Sovereign, not servant. 22 “days of the Son of Man”

The King is coming everywhere, not just there. 23 “Do not... chase after them”

The King is coming imminently, and instantaneously. 24 “as the lightning flashes”

The King’s first coming was prophesied (cross) and proved (resurrection). 25

What you seek, you will find. Luke 17:20-25

Finding Jesus on planet Earth. 17:20-21

Sceptics can’t see Him. 20a “asked by the Pharisees”

Some seek alternatives. 21a “Look, here it is”

Seekers will find Him. 21b “is in your midst”

Finally, Jesus returns to planet Earth. 17:22-25

Jesus is not coming to restore the past. 22 “days of the Son of Man, but see it”

Jesus’ coming will be unmistakable. 23-24 “Do not go out... like lightning”

Jesus' coming will be His completion. 25 "first, He must..."

6

First always comes before second. Luke 17:20-25, emp.25

The Kingdom of the King's first coming. 17:20-21

Jesus' Kingdom has come. 20a "when the Kingdom... would come"

Jesus' Kingdom is overlooked. 20b "not come with observable signs"

Jesus' Kingdom is everywhere. 21 "is in your midst"

The Kingdom of the King's second coming. 17:22-25

Jesus' Kingdom is beyond 'the good old days'. 22 "days of the Son of Man, but see it"

Jesus' Kingdom is beyond geography. 23-24 "from one end of the sky to the other"

Jesus' Kingdom is opposite of His first coming. 25 "²⁵But first He must suffer"

7

My cannot, and God's Kingdom. Luke 17:20-25

The Kingdom I cannot see. 17:20-21

God's Kingdom is not found by signs. 20b "not come with observable signs"

God's Kingdom is not found by location. 21a "Look, here it is..."

God's Kingdom is right here, right now. 21b "is in your midst"

The Kingdom I cannot avoid. 17:22-25

God's Kingdom is beyond our grief. 22 "you will long to see"

God's Kingdom is as elusive as lightning. 24 "just as the lightning flashes"

God's Kingdom is dependent on Calvary. 25 "He must suffer many things"

8

To see the Kingdom, look to the King. Luke 17:20-25

The Kingdom is the King's presence. 17:20-21

Look for Jesus, but not for actions. 20b "not come with observable signs"

Look for Jesus, but not for activities. 21a "here it is... there it is"

Look for Jesus, but in our midst. 21b "is in your midst"

The Kingdom is the King's coming. 17:22-25

Look for Jesus. He is coming soon. 22 "you will long to see"

Look for Jesus. He is not here yet. 23 “Do not go out or chase after them”
Look for Jesus. He will be in the sky. 24 “flashes and lights up the sky”
Look for Jesus. He is your Saviour first. 25 “first He must suffer many things”

Other possible titles

Ready or not, Jesus is coming
Unseen signs
Signs you can't see
Stop searching for the secret
Already here, but not yet
The secret second coming
The one thing before the Second Coming (v25)
The invisible Kingdom

Step parallelism

A¹ The audience. 20a “asked by the Pharisees”
 B¹ Not able to be seen. 20b “not come with observable signs”
 C¹ False directions. 21a “Look, here it is”
 D¹ What will be seen. 21b “the kingdom of God is in your midst”
A² The audience. 22a “He said to the disciples”
 B² Not able to be seen. 22b “but you will not see it”
 C² False directions. 23 “Look, here He is”
 D² What will be seen. 24 “the Son of Man in His day”
 E² But first. 25 “But first He must suffer”

Music and songs

Songs about the Kingdom or the King
 All hail King Jesus, 237 / SiS 219
 Amazing love [You are my King], Ot 8
 Hear the call of the Kingdom, (Getty)
 King of Kings and Lord of Lords, SiS 409
 King of Love my Shepherd is, 86
 Let Your Kingdom come, Ot 12

Live for the Kingdom, Ot 15
Servant King, 674
Shepherd King, 726
The Lord's Prayer (Thy Kingdom come)
This Kingdom, Ot 47

Songs about the Second Coming

At the name of Jesus every knee will bow, H 191
I keep looking up (Brian Free)
Jesus is coming (Somebody's coming, Gaither)
Jesus is coming again, CWH 91
Jesus is coming soon, CWH 71
Jesus is coming soon, (Winsett)
Lo, He comes with clouds descending, H 200
Looking for the city, Ot 106
See Him coming, Ot 5
Sing we the King who is coming to reign, H 204
The King is coming, Ot 40
There's a light upon the mountains, H 199
Troublesome times are here... Jesus is coming soon.

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. Why do you think Jesus emphasised His first coming to the Pharisees, but His second coming to His disciples?
 2. The Pharisees wanted 'observable signs'. But Jesus' answer was "You see... it is in your midst." What were the Pharisees not seeing? What do you think we, today, most need to see of the Kingdom?
 3. What false ideas of the Second Coming was Jesus dispelling in v22, and also in v23?
 4. List some indicators of Jesus imminent return, as found in 2 Timothy 3:1-5. How many of these have already occurred? What does that suggest about the timing of the Second Coming?
 5. What does a lightning flash express about Jesus return?
 6. When speaking of His return, why did Jesus close with v25?
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