

# Talk It Over

The Certainty  
Week 6  
“The Kingdom of God Has Come Near”

## SMALL TALK

1. Some people assume that following Jesus solves all your problems; have you ever suffered for following Jesus?

## VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Luke 9:51-10:24.** Reflecting on what happened in the brief episode of 9:51-56, what can we learn about evangelism according to Jesus?
3. What preconditions did the three would-be disciples of 9:57-62 have for following Jesus? Which of these candidates for discipleship are you possibly like? In what ways?
4. What urgency in Jesus’ instructions to the 72 sent on mission do you see? Is this kind of urgency necessary for Christians today for evangelism? Why or why not?
5. What does Jesus rejoice over in 10:18? What caution does Jesus give in 10:20 and why?

## GETTING PERSONAL

6. Have you ever felt like “a worker in the harvest” 10:2? Have you ever felt like the lamb among wolves of 10:3? Describe the intensity of the conflict. Were you truly weaponless? (see 10:19)
7. Have you ever felt like God was asking too much from you? Did he really ask too much from you?

March 7, 2021

## The Certainty

“The Kingdom of God Has Come Near”

Luke explains why he wrote his Gospel, and Acts.

*Luke 1:4 (CSB) ...so that you may know the certainty...*

*Luke 10:11 (CSB) ...‘Know this for certain: The kingdom of God has come near.’*

THE KINGDOM OF GOD/Heaven is one of the most central concepts in the history of revelation.

### 2 COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS

1. No waiting, Political Kingdom NOW (weapons of this world)
2. Still waiting, Heavenly Kingdom only LATER

Nobody was expecting a two-fold coming of the kingdom where we are waiting for the earthly political rule (opposite of the expectation), while Jesus establishes his invisible, spiritual kingdom NOW.

### PROPHETIC FORESHORTENING:

“Prophetic foreshortening” is what caused the misunderstanding (which is by God’s design). Prophetic foreshortening is where a prophet describes his vision in one continuous scene because the prophet himself cannot tell how much time there is between scenes. It is like describing two very distant mountain peaks on the horizon. The prophet cannot see that there is a vast valley separating the two mountains in the distance.

See Isaiah 62:1-2 and Isaiah 9:6-7 are classic examples of this.

We looked at Isaiah 62:1-2 last week when Jesus quoted it, but stopped mid sentence and did not talk about the day of God’s vengence which was still in the distant future and about his second coming.

In Isaiah 9:6-7 we have the first mountain peak of his coming described as a child born, but the second coming is also described as he rules the world on the Davidic throne, in a forever kingdom.

CONTEXT OF Luke 10:11: “The Kingdom of God has come near”. This is Jesus’ instruction to the the 72 who were sent to proclaim the kingdom of God and heal people in Jesus name.

In Luke 9 Jesus had but sent 12. In Chapter 10, Jesus sent 72 others. Luke is the only one who records this. This fascinated Luke! What is going on?

The 12 disciples go to the 12 tribes of Judaism.  
The 72 go to Gentile regions, as Genesis 10 in the Lxx has 72 nations in the table of nations. Luke understands this as a preview of the Global Great Commission.

*Luke 10:3 (CSB) Now go; I’m sending you out like lambs among wolves.*

Jesus knew a clash of kingdoms was taking place and it would be intense, but the battle was NOT going to be waged with weapons of this world. The Kingdom will win the battle JESUS’ style!

## I. **There is only one FOREVER Kingdom**

Luke’s Gospel begins with Gabriel’s announcement to Mary.

*Luke 1:33 (CSB) He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end.*

But as we’ve noted this was not a new idea. THE KINGDOM OF GOD, or the Kingdom of Heaven, is one of the most central concepts in the history of revelation.

ADAM AND EVE: God invited Adam and Eve to rule and take dominion under his supreme reign. His design was a partnership in his reign.

ABRAHAM: Abraham was promised that a future kingdom would bless the world, a kingdom of his offspring.

However, before they become a kingdom, they will endure 400 years of faith stretching domination, until the time is right.

EXODUS: God delivers through chosen prophet deliverer (Moses).

God leads them out, and makes a covenant with them, where he will be their GOD (only king) and they will be his people. He will lead them into the promised land.

WARNING: Exile if they forsake his covenant.

DAVID: A forever kingdom promised through one of his sons.

MORE WARNINGS:

HOPE: A forever kingdom was promised and an anointed king would deliver.

TIMING: DANIEL.

Messianic revolutionary fervor at the time of Jesus, but Jesus fulfills these hopes in a completely different way than was expected.

## II. It arrived **MYSTERIOUSLY** and with **SECRETS**

*Luke 8:10 (CSB) So he said, “The secrets of the kingdom of God have been given for you to know, but to the rest it is in parables, so that Looking they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.*

*Luke 8:18 (CSB) Therefore take care how you listen. [The King says. Listen to what? The word of God. The secrets of the kingdom.] For whoever has , [whoever has what!? Whoever has the word of God, the seeds of God’s life planted within them] more will be given to him; and whoever does not have, Whoever does not have the word of God, the seeds of God’s truth and life planted within them] even what he thinks he has will be taken away from him.”*

- SEEDS NOW, HARVEST LATER
- Mixed now, separated LATER
- Small now then grows
- King is here now (in humility), YET coming back later (in glory)

### III. It's **INVISIBLE** now (except for previews) & **VISIBLE** later

*Luke 17:20–21 (CSB) When he was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is **not coming with something observable**; <sup>21</sup> no one will say, ‘See here!’ or ‘There!’ For you see, the kingdom of God is in your midst.”*

#### **INVISIBLE:**

- Secret only for a short time (for timing’s sake).
- Jesus would soon SEND all his disciples (people in his kingdom) like lambs in a war, to plant kingdom seeds wherever they go.
- Seeds are planted through proclamation: with power, grace, and glory.

#### **Except for previews**

*Luke 9:27 (CSB) Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they **see** the kingdom of God.”*

PREDICTION. Only some of the 12 disciples will SEE the kingdom of God in their lifetime. Luke solves this mysterious statement in the very next verse.

*Luke 9:28–29 (CSB) About eight days after this conversation, he took along Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> As he was praying, **the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.***

- Jesus humility was pulled back like a curtain.

*Luke 9:30–31 (CSB) Suddenly, two men were talking with him—Moses and Elijah. [representatives of the Law and the Prophets] <sup>31</sup> They appeared in glory and were speaking of his **departure**, which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.*

- Do you know what the greek word for “departure” is here? ἔξοδος “his departure” is “his Exodus”!
- ITS HOW JESUS will lead his subjects through the EXODUS / DELIVERANCE and bring us into the promised kingdom.
- Peter, James and John got to see the glory that everyone will one day see. Some in joy, and others with fear, and dread because they didn’t believe it till it was too late.

**VISIBLE:**

*Luke 21:26–27 (CSB) People will faint from fear and expectation of the things that are coming on the world, because the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*

**VIDEO: Gospel of the Kingdom (Jesus Project)**

Nowhere is the mystery of the Kingdom more profound than in the Cross of Jesus. The Sower becomes, Himself, the seed.