

Life Group Notes

Sunday 10th September 2023

Speaker: Andy McCullough

Title: Kingdom Come: Kingdom Gospel

Passage: Matt 4:17-25

Jesus announces “The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.” The Kingdom was anticipated in the Old Testament, is now present in the person of Jesus, and will one day come fully at Christ’s return. It is now and not yet. It is inaugurated but not yet consummated. John Wimber, “The word means reign, not realm and refers to actual dynamic power effective in ministry.” G.E. Ladd wrote, “The kingdom is the presence of the future.”

In v18-22 we see a very local, specific, down-to-earth reality; fishermen in Galilee. The Kingdom of Heaven is a great cosmic idea but it is worked out specifically, locally, personally. The people who are called respond by leaving their previous identities to follow the King. Jesus announces the Kingdom and then immediately begins to gather the Church – the vehicle for extending the Kingdom.

In v23-25 we then see the Kingdom being proclaimed and demonstrated over a wide area to a large number of people.

So the kingdom goes deep into the disciples, and then wide into the masses. It goes into hearts, and then out to others. If you like, Sundays are for “Kingdom in” and then Mondays are for “Kingdom out.” The King wants to fix what is broken, to put the world right, to transform everything, but he does so one person at a time, looking for repentance and renewed allegiance. That’s the good news of the Kingdom!

Suggested Questions:

1. Discuss what you understand by “the Kingdom of God” and how we in RFC can “bring the Kingdom of God to Reading and Beyond.”
2. The Kingdom is now and not yet. Do you agree? Why is this important?
3. Why is it important that Peter, Andrew, James and John leave things behind to follow Jesus? What have you left behind? Is there anything in your life at the moment that you need to leave behind?
4. “Sundays are for Kingdom in, Mondays are for Kingdom out.” Discuss.
5. In this story we see sick people being healed as an expression of the Kingdom. Pray together for the King to heal any who are sick in the group.
6. Pray “Your kingdom come” in Reading.