

The Kingdom of God



COMMON GROUND

If you went back 2,000 years and heard Jesus preaching, what might you hear him preaching about?

- Forgiveness, mercy, love, justice, etc. . .

All these things are summed up in the "kingdom of God". When Jesus first started preaching, his message was about the kingdom of God:

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

MARK 1:14-15

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

What is the gospel of the Kingdom of God?

- (Watch the Bible Project video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zy2AQIK6C5k>)

The gospel of the kingdom of God is:

- God is still in control despite what you see
- Jesus is alive and is the world's true Lord and King
- Jesus is coming back to establish his Kingdom upon the earth

OUR ROLE

So what are we supposed to do now that he's king while we wait for him to return? Make ready for his return.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

JOHN 20:21-22

What does this mean?

- We have been called to be for the world what Jesus was to us.
- **What God does in you, He wants to do through you.**

WHAT DID JESUS COME TO DO?

- Reveal the Father

"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

JOHN 17:25-26

- What does this mean?

"The greatest news that has ever been broken to the human race is the news that God is like Christ. And the greatest news we can break to that non-Christian world is just that--that the God whom you have dimly realized, but about whose character you are uncertain, is like Christ."

E. STANLEY JONES, *CHRIST OF THE INDIAN ROAD*

- The most fundamental question, "What is God like?", is answered when we look at Jesus.
- Seek and save the lost

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

LUKE 19:10

- What does this mean?
- *Read the parable of the prodigal son / the parable of the father's heart. (Luke 15:11-32)*
- Why did Jesus come to seek and save the lost?
 - Because God suffers until all his children have come home.
- Destroy the works of the devil

...The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

I JOHN 3:8

- What is a work of the devil? How can we stop them?

HOW DO WE DO THIS?

At Rice, how do we:

- Reveal the Father?
- Seek and save the lost?
- Destroy the works of the devil?

CHALLENGE

- This semester lets each fight and pray for two of our friends that are Christian but not in fellowship to find community and for one friend that's lost to come to know Jesus.
- Let's go on a a spring break missions trip
 - Challenge your small group to go with you!