

“The Kingdom of God”  
Mark 9:1  
(Preached at Trinity, May 23, 2012)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. A major aspect of the preaching of Jesus focused upon the coming of the Kingdom.  
**Luke 8:1 NAU** - "Soon afterwards, He *began* going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. "  
**Matthew 4:23 NAS** - "And *Jesus* was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people."
2. This was at the very heart of the parables. Most of the parables begin:  
"The kingdom of heaven is like . . ."  
**Matthew 13:24 NAS** - "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field."  
**Matthew 13:31 NAS** - "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field;"  
**Matthew 13:33 KJV** - "The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven"  
**Matthew 13:44 KJV** - "The kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field"  
**Matthew 13:45 NAS** - "The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls"  
**Matthew 13:47 NAS** - "The kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering *fish* of every kind"  
**Matthew 13:52 NAS** - "The kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings forth out of his treasure things new and old."  
**Matthew 18:23 NAS** - "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a certain king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves."  
**Matthew 25:1 NAS** - "the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom."
3. It was also the message of the Apostles  
**Acts 28:23 NAU** - "When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening."  
**Acts 28:30-31 KJV** - "And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, <sup>31</sup> Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him."
4. Now we find here in **Verse 1** that the Kingdom was about to come upon them. In fact it would manifest itself during their own generation.  
**Mark 9:1 NAU** - "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."

5. Tonight I want to direct your attention to the important subject of the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God, of Heaven, and of Christ are used synonymously.

I. First of all, how do we describe this Kingdom?

A. When we talk about the Kingdom of God we are talking about God's dominion – His rule.

1. The first advent of Christ was the great fulfillment of the Old Testament expectation –  
**Daniel 2:44** – “And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.”
2. The Jews misunderstood the fulfillment of this promise. They had the expectation of an earthly, physical reign in which Israel would be delivered from all her enemies.
  - a. Remember, this was Peter's expectation. This is why he was so shocked to hear that Jesus the Messiah would be killed.
  - b. Jesus taught that His Kingdom was distinctly different from this present world. He told Pilate:  
**John 18:36 NAU** - "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."
3. With Christ came the great inauguration and the fulfillment of the Kingdom  
**Matthew 3:2** - "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."  
**Matthew 12:28 NAU** - "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."  
**Luke 10:8-9 NAU** - "Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; <sup>9</sup> and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

B. The Kingdom of God is not of this world, yet manifested upon the earth through God's people—the church.

- Luke 17:20-21** - "Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; <sup>21</sup> nor will they say, 'Look, here *it is!*' or, 'There *it is!*' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."
1. While the Kingdom of God is manifested upon the earth it is not an earthly kingdom. It is of an entirely different realm. It is heavenly. The people of the Kingdom are not primarily earthly  
**Colossians 3:1-2** - "Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth."

2. The Bible consistently describes this great separation  
It is the contrast between the earthly and the heavenly  
**John 3:12** – “If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?”  
**Philippians 3:18-20 NAU** - "For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ, <sup>19</sup> whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;"

3. As we've seen before, it is often described in terms of two ages – this present age and the age to come.  
**Matthew 12:32** – “Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age to come.*”  
**Ephesians 1:18-21** – “*I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might <sup>20</sup> which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”

C. Christians are not of this present age but we are of the age to come.

1. Paul implied this clearly in **Romans 12**  
**Romans 12:2** – “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” *αἰών* – “age”
2. So as we consider the Kingdom of God we are speaking of a Kingdom that is other worldly, it is heavenly, of a different age.
  - a. And it is the Kingdom to which all Christians belong
  - b. And while it has come, we still await its fullness
3. It is the “already” but also the “not yet”  
The Kingdom has come, the Kingdom will come.  
So we pray:  
**Matthew 6:10** – “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.”

D. Although the Kingdom is not of this world and although we haven't seen it in its fullness it is very much a reality in our lives

1. Our Lord's Kingdom is a righteous Kingdom. It is a kingdom of holiness. This is why John came preaching repentance in preparation of its coming
2. The citizens of the kingdom will be holy - They will joyfully obey

- II. So what is Jesus saying here in **Verse 1**?  
**Mark 9:1 NAU** - "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."
- A. The previous verse speaks of the second coming of Christ in His power
1. This will be a glorious display of His Kingdom as all things are consummated
  2. This might fit the context with the previous verse, but obviously that generation did not see Christ come in judgment in the glory of His Father with His holy angels
- B. Some say this refers to His Transfiguration
1. This is surely an aspect of it. And it surely fits the context.
    - a. Six days later Peter, James, and John would witness a glorious display of the King in all His holiness and splendor.
    - b. An important aspect of Christ's Kingdom is His exaltation. As Lord of lords all must bow before Him.
  2. But the transfiguration was merely a taste of the majesty of Christ. It was not a display of Kingdom power.
- C. Some say it refers to the destruction of Jerusalem
1. There is some truth in this. Many who were alive at this time witnessed this terrible destruction.
  2. This was a visible demonstration of the end of the Old Covenant dispensation. It was a powerful display of the judgment of Christ upon the apostate nation.
- D. But I think there is something much greater here
1. Instead of looking to the following verses regarding the Transfiguration I think we need to look back to the preceding verses.
  2. I think **Verse 1** actually belongs in **Chapter 8**
    - a. In **Verse 31** Jesus predicts His crucifixion  
**Mark 8:31 NAU** - "And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."
    - b. Peter saw this as a great defeat. But it was not! It was a great victory. With the resurrection came His ascension to His throne.
    - c. **Verse 38** speaks of Christ coming in judgment  
**Mark 8:38 NAU** - "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."
    - d. Obviously that generation did not witness the 2nd coming of Christ. But they did witness His death just as He spoke in **Verse 31**. And they did witness Jesus ascension to His throne – they did witness the resurrection  
**Philippians 2:9** – "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:"
  3. With the resurrection and ascension and Pentecost Christ began His reign as our Mediatorial King.

4. With these glorious events everything changed.  
**Acts 1:8 NAU** - " but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.""
5. William Hendriksen: "Momentous events would occur: the becoming 'of age' of the church, its extension among the Gentiles, the conversion of people by the thousands, the presence and exercise of many charismatic gifts, etc. Jesus predicts that all this will begin to take place during the lifetime of some of those whom he is now addressing."

Conclusion:

1. Here's the point of the context  
 In **Verse 34** Jesus stated the requirement for entering this Kingdom  
**Mark 8:34 NAU** - "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."
2. It is a holy Kingdom. It is a Kingdom that is radically different from anything this world has ever seen.  
 Look at the great contrast between **Verses 33 & 34**  
 The difference between the way of Satan and the Kingdom of Christ
3. The Kingdom has come with power. It is a holy Kingdom. Which Kingdom will you serve?