

Union Methodist Church

**2024 Theme: "A fruitful church that wins souls,
making and nurturing disciples of Christ."**

Proverbs 11:30 NKJV

Sunday, August 4th, 2024

Sermon:

The Kingdom of God - Part 10

Preach The Gospel of the Kingdom In All Seasons

1. Seeing & Entering the Kingdom of God

- **Kingdom of God**
 - Heaven, **and** Wherever God's Will Rules
 - Wherever God's Spirit & Power Manifests
- Jesus said "**if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you.**" Matthew 12:28 NRSV
- "the kingdom of God is ... **righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**" Romans 14:17 NRSV
- Present and Future Reality: can be seen and experienced now, fully in heaven, or when Jesus returns

1. Seeing & Entering the Kingdom of God

- **The Kingdom shows up with anointing power.**

“the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.” 1 Corinthians 4:20 NIV

“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; ... he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 We are witnesses to all that he did” Acts 10:38 NRSV.

1. Seeing & Entering the Kingdom of God

- **Pre-Condition: Be “born again”**

3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, **no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.**

5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, **no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.**

6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.” John 3:3,5 NIV.

2. Our Most Important and Urgent Task

- **Jesus instructed his disciples (including us):**
“As you go, **proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’**” Matthew 10:7
“**Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’**” Luke 10:9
“And these signs will accompany those who believe: **by using my name they will cast out demons; ... they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.**” Part of Mark 16:17-18 NRSV

2. Our Most Important and Urgent Task

Jesus said: “Do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”** Matthew 6:31, 33 NIV

3. The Urgency of Our Kingdom Calling

Jesus' Reaction to 3 people:

- "I will follow you..."
 - Not Easy
- "Follow Me"
 - Must Put Kingdom First
- "I will follow you"
 - No Looking or Turning Back

3. The Urgency of Our Kingdom Calling

- **“I will follow you” - Not Easy**

57As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, **“I will follow you wherever you go.”**

58Jesus replied, **“Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”** Luke 9:57-58

3. The Urgency of Our Kingdom Calling

- **“Follow Me” - Must Put Kingdom First**

59 He said to another man,

“Follow me.” But he replied, **“Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”**

60 Jesus said to him, **“Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”** Luke 9:59-60

3. The Urgency of Our Kingdom Calling

- **“I will follow you” - No Looking Back**
61 Still another said, **“I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”** 62 Jesus replied, **“No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”** Luke 9:61,62 NIV

3. The Urgency of Our Kingdom Calling

1In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

2**Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season...**”

2 Timothy 4:1-2 NIV