

Jesus Brings the Kingdom of God Near

When Jesus declared that God's kingdom was near, his life embodied that truth. In our study of Jesus' teachings, we'll discover what it means for the kingdom to show up in real time through healing, justice, and welcome. We'll talk about how God's kingdom continues to come near in Jesus today, and how he calls us to participate in his kingdom here and now.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Think about how you talk about God's kingdom. Do your words suggest that you believe God's kingdom is far away and a future reality or near and in the present reality? Why?
- What signs will help us recognize the presence of the kingdom of God?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [*Jesus Brings the Kingdom of God Near*](#)

READ [Mark 1:14–15](#), [Luke 4:16–21](#), [Matthew 10:7–8](#), [Matthew 8:1–13](#), [John 3:1–15](#), [Matthew 5:1–16](#), [Matthew 6:9–10](#), [Luke 17:20–21](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- As they discussed what Jesus taught about the kingdom of God, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney made it clear that Jesus is telling us he will reign as king in a different kind of kingdom: one that brings healing, liberation, and good news to the poor and marginalized. His is not a political kingdom, but a kingdom that changes expectations. Then Scott said, “The kingdom that Jesus is bringing is not always going to be popular.” How is this evident to you today?
- As you listened to Darrell and Scott talk, how did Jesus expand how you imagine or understand God's kingdom?
- In [Matthew 10:7–8](#), Jesus told the disciples, “As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’” What might it look like for you to proclaim the nearness of God's kingdom as *you* go?
- Describing the teaching and action format in Matthew, Darrell observed that the barriers in our world are not an issue for the kingdom of God. What situations or realities in your life does this give you hope for?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Isaiah 9:6](#), [Isaiah 61:1–2](#), [Matthew 9:18–34](#)

CONCLUSION

Darrell and Scott articulated two important takeaways from Jesus' teachings on the kingdom of God:

1. "The kingdom is a way of life. The kingdom has come near, and the evidence is in what happens when the kingdom breaks into real lives."
2. "The Kingdom crosses borders...Jesus doesn't just bring healing, he brings hope."

Where do you see signs of God's kingdom today? When have you witnessed miracles? In whom have you seen a kingdom lifestyle? Take time to pray and give thanks for the nearness of God's kingdom in your life and in the world today.

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