## The Kingdom Will Come

Read Matthew 8:5-12; 25:31-34; Mark 14:23-25

The Kingdom has come – it has begun. The Kingdom is growing. And at God's perfect time, His rulership on earth will be full and beautifully complete. Because the Kingdom of God is still growing, Jesus sometimes spoke of it as a future event, since its fullness is still to come.

- <u>Matthew 8:5-12</u> When a Roman centurion asked Jesus to heal his servant, Jesus expressed surprise and pleasure at the gentile's great faith. He said that in the Kingdom of Heaven (synonymous with the Kingdom of God), people would come from all over the world and feast with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- <u>Matthew 25:31-34</u> Here at the close of Jesus' discourse on the days to come, He says He will come in His glory, with all His angels, and sit on His throne. The nations will be gathered before Him and separated, the righteous from the wicked. To the righteous He will say: *"Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."* (v.34, NASB)
- <u>Mark 14:23-25</u> In sharing the Lord's Supper with His disciples before His death, Jesus said this after distributing the wine: *"I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."* (v.25, NASB)

As we consider all the truth Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God as being present now, constantly growing, and fulfilled in the future, notice these life truths.

- The Kingdom of God is the presence and rulership of Jesus Christ. Thus it is both a present reality and a future hope, in our hearts and throughout the earth.
- The Holy Spirit is the life, holiness, and power of God within and among us. We have Him now as our downpayment on the Kingdom while we await receiving it in full.
- Jesus urges us to focus our lives and energies on the Kingdom of God, leaving all our physical needs in the hands of our Father. "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33, NASB). We shouldn't be surprised when this leaves us out-of-step with the rest of the world. We are living by the truth, in God's eternal reality.

Listen & Sing: What a Strange and Wonderful Kingdom! (from LNWhymns.com)

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