

The King and His Strange Kingdom

Luke 19:11-27



“A king who dies on the cross must be the king of a rather strange kingdom.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

In the kingdom of heaven, it's a cross that leads to a crown.


It is through suffering and sacrifice that the kingdom of God advances.

It is through earthly loss that there comes eternal gain.

What is Jesus focused on?

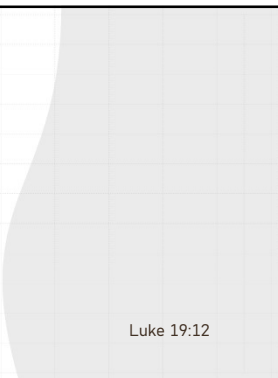
▶ Jesus was on a clear mission to establish His cross-shaped kingdom.

Luke 19:12


A photograph of a chessboard with a king and a pawn. The king is a tall, dark piece with a crown, and the pawn is a smaller, light-colored piece. They are on a white surface, and their shadows are cast on a dark background.

▶ “He said, therefore, ‘A nobleman went into a far country to receive His kingdom and then return.’”

Luke 19:12

A photograph of a chessboard with a king and a pawn. The king is a tall, dark piece with a crown, and the pawn is a smaller, light-colored piece. They are on a white surface, and their shadows are cast on a dark background.

Jesus went to the cross in order to take hold of the crown.

A photograph of a chessboard with a king and a pawn. The king is a tall, dark piece with a crown, and the pawn is a smaller, light-colored piece. They are on a white surface, and their shadows are cast on a dark background.

“The kingdom is the ultimate goal of the cross, and the cross is the means by which the kingdom comes.”

Jeremy Treat

“He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Colossians 1:13-14

“But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”

Hebrews 2:9

"from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Revelation 1:5-6

Jesus went to the cross in order to establish a cross-shaped kingdom.

"No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life."

John 3:13-15

"The kingdom is the ultimate goal of the cross, and the cross is the means by which the kingdom comes...the cross is the throne from which Jesus rules and establishes his kingdom."

Jeremy Treat

"Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' He said to them, 'You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'"


Matthew 20:22-24

Jesus is establishing a kingdom where the way up is down. The kingdom is advanced as people take up their cross and follow Him.

What does Jesus expect from His disciples?

▶ Jesus expects us to engage in kingdom business until He returns. Jesus expects us to start building a cross-shaped kingdom.

Luke 19:13



▶ “Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’”

Luke 19:13

The mission of the church is to start setting up life in the kingdom of God now.

▶ “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Matthew 6:33



▶ The church is the primary arena God has chosen to make his redemptive reign over his people visible.

So the kingdom of God then, is God's redemptive reign, in the person of his Son, Jesus Messiah, which has broken into the present evil age and is now visible in the church.

Kevin DeYoung and Greg Gilbert

▶ "...to be a Christian means that we are not only forgiven through the cross but we are made followers of the king. We are saved *from* sin and the kingdom of darkness, but we are saved *for* Jesus and his kingdom of light. The self-giving love of God displayed in the cross creates a people who lovingly give of themselves for the well-being of others."

Jeremy Treat



“And He said to him, ‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.’”

Luke 19:17

What will heaven and hell be like?

Heaven will be the infinite capacity for love and service.

Hell will be irrevocable loss of the opportunity for love and service.



“When the kingdom comes... they will find that the reward far exceeds the work they have done. Their Master and King and generous and kind indeed!”

Tom Schreiner

“I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”

Luke 19:26

Infinite Generosity: Heaven will be an infinitely expanding opportunity and capacity to love and to serve others.

Irrevocable Severity: Hell will be the complete loss of all opportunity to love and to serve Christ others by those who refused to serve Him now.

“Those who are rewarded will find that their reward keeps giving and giving, that their abundance knows no end. Their blessings will never end but increase.”

Tom Schreiner

“He said to him, ‘I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant!’”

Luke 19:22

“There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done,’ and those to whom God says, in the end, ‘Thy will be done.’ All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. Those who knock it is opened.”

CS Lewis

Those who justify their rebellion by accusing the Lord of being severe be judged according to their words... with severity.

“Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your Master.”

Matthew 25:23
