

Whose Kingdom will Have No End - Acts 1:6-11

Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

As we continue to study the Nicene Creed, there are so many facets to the whole controversy that just keep exposing themselves. Every line of the creed seems to relate to someone who was teaching something that was either REALLY wrong, or just sort of a misunderstanding but with good intentions. We have stories about people like Nicolas of Myra who apparently got feisty at the meeting and ended up slapping Arias, the main antagonist of this whole affair, and a host of other people like Athanasias and other giants and heroes of the first centuries of the Church, and each had their one part, positively or negatively, to contribute to the formation of the Nicene Creed.

Today, the line of the creed we are focusing on is "Whose kingdom shall have no end", referencing the fact that Jesus is the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and the kingdom He has established exists now and will last forever. However, this idea was in dispute because of an attendee of the council named Marcellus. His main claim was that God "broke apart" and became Three in order to accomplish redemption, but one day, Jesus and the Holy Spirit would merge back into the Father and become one again (sort of like Voltron or the Power Rangers). Thus, when Jesus' mission ends, Jesus ceases to be, and then, so does His kingdom and kingship.

Again, we face a misunderstanding of the nature of God in the Trinity, and the writers of the Creed make sure to express the eternal nature of Jesus, and with it, the eternal nature of His kingdom. We can look at Jesus' words in Acts 1 where the Apostles recognize Jesus as king but overstep by thinking that Jesus was now establishing an earthly kingdom. Instead, we know that Jesus was establishing a Heavenly Kingdom that is "Already, Not-Yet." What does that mean? A few things:

The Kingdom is ALREADY -

1. Jesus ascended right after this question was asked and the scriptures tell us that "He is seated at the right hand of God". This is a picture of Jesus ruling and reigning in Heaven. So the kingdom is already here and His coronation has already happened.
2. The Kingdom is spread through the Apostles, and ultimately by us, His church. We live as citizens of that Kingdom by spreading the good news of Jesus and His reign as King, who can save people from their sins and give them everlasting life.
3. We experience the kingdom now as the Holy Spirit lives in us, works in us, and as we live lives worthy of the Gospel.

The Kingdom is NOT YET -

1. One day, Jesus will return and rule and reign fully, and death, injustice, and evil will perish, and righteousness will reign.
2. We wait on Him who is faithful to come again and put into place all the things He has promised. He will keep His promises and cannot fail us. Its not yet, but that doesn't mean it never will - in fact, quite the opposite, it's a guaranteed outcome of all of history that His kingdom will come, His will be done.
3. One day, we will have new bodies and there will be a renewed creation. The Kingdom will be fully established, and His rule will never end, and the world around us will match that rule fully.

All of those things are lost if we don't a Jesus who is fully God, fully Man, and who has an eternal kingdom. If we mess up the Trinity and how it works, we'll no longer have a worthy King, and therefore, no kingdom. Once again we see why studying the Nicene Creed is important, because it reminds us that Jesus is the only true and worthy King, and we must bow our knee to Him alone, for He is worthy.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Psalm 9	Psalm 10	Psalm 11	Psalm 12	Psalm 13	Psalm 14	Psalm 15

Reading from this past week's sermon: Acts 1:6-11

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: John 16:1-15

Family Worship

Song - *Blessed Be your Name*

https://youtu.be/zG72BQrlriw?si=gHiKxm8rYubRg_Bp

Gospel Project

Unit: The Southern Kingdom

Story: Judah's Good Kings

Big Picture Question: What is God like?

Answer: God is holy, good, and loving.

Scripture: 2 Kings 18-19

New City Catechism

Question 45: Is baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?

Answer: No, only the blood of Christ can cleanse us from sin.

Verse: Luke 3:16

Acts 13:26-41

- What kind of Kingdom were the disciples and others living in the First Century expecting? How did Jesus' Kingdom differ from their hopes?
- What are some ways that the Kingdom has already come as a result of the work of Jesus?
- What are some of the hopes for the Kingdom that are still not yet? How does the Bible promise the fulfillment of those?
- In Acts, what was the call for those who experienced Jesus' Kingdom? How will our belief in the Kingdom now and not yet shape how we live our lives?
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Prayer

*Pray that we would live these days in hopeful expectation for Jesus' return and eternal Kingdom.

*Pray for our Prayer Ministry Team, and join us this Saturday for our Prayer Breakfast.