

Title: Thy kingdom come I – preparing the way
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Kingdom within

Luke 17:20–21 (NKJV) *“The kingdom of God does not come with observation; ²¹ nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”*

- The kingdom cannot come through us, if it doesn't first come in us.
- How? Surrender to the Spirit.

Willing and obedient

Isaiah 1:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; ²⁰ But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword”; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.*

- **Willing?** Hearts completely devoted to the will of God.
- **Obedient?** Doing the will of God to the letter. Not 90%. 100%.
- **Refuse / rebel?** Stubbornness. (1) Choosing our own path. (2) Not consult God (3) Ignoring commands of scripture (4) Authority issues

Pursuing own gain

Ezekiel 33:31 (NKJV) ³¹ *So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain.*

- We desire all the good things of God, but we are unwilling to do the will of God.

Holiness – preparing for the Holy Spirit

Ignoring sin in our lives, thinking that God doesn't see, or maybe **it isn't a serious issue.**

1 Corinthians 6:18–20 (ESV) ¹⁸ *Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

- You are not your own
- Ask yourself: Am I glorifying God in my body?

Joshua 3:5 (NLT) ⁵ *Then Joshua told the people, “Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do great wonders among you.”*

- First purity, then power.

Hardness of heart

Mark 3:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ *And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. ² So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. ³ And He said to the man who had the withered hand, “Step forward.” ⁴ Then He said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they kept silent. ⁵ **And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts,** He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.*

- Jesus does become angry sometimes, yet He is slow to anger.
- **They were religious, yet they had lacked love.** Their hearts were hard.

Acts 7:51 (NKJV) ⁵¹ *“You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.*

Conclusion

The kingdom must first come in us, before it can come through us.

1. Unloving: Does the love of Christ reign in your heart?
2. Selfish: Are you serving God because you want to please Him at all cost?
3. Sin: Are you ruthlessly dealing with sin in your life?
4. Hard heart: Is your heart hard?