

God's Eternal Kingdom

Text: John 15:18–25; 16:1–4; 17:14–18

Introduction

The disciples believed that Jesus would establish an earthly kingdom that would win over society. They were in for a rude awakening.

Jesus explained to the disciples that the world (including the religious world) would hate, excommunicate, and kill the Christian. Nevertheless, Jesus has not removed believers from the world, but sent believers to the world on a mission.

Message

1. Jesus has established a new kingdom.

The Christians are the **called out ones**. Believers have a new loyalty.

Christians have a dual citizenship. “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s” (Matthew 22:21). But what is Caesar’s, and what is God’s?

2. There is conflict between the kingdom of God and the world.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness” (Matthew 5:10–12). “Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12). The Romans believed that Christians were disloyal citizens. Instead of “Caesar is Lord,” they said, “No king but Christ.” The world will always hate those who do not conform.

3. Jesus asks believers to be distinct from the world.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world. (1 John 2:15,16). The Christian is fundamentally not a part of this society. Do not get too comfortable with it.

4. Jesus sends believers to minister to the world.

Separation from the world is only part of the requirement. Jesus sends the believer back into the world to be a witness.

In the world and of the world?

Not in the world, but of the world?

Not in the world and not of the world?

In the world, but not of the world?

In the world and not of the world, but sent to the world.

Having a right relationship with the world does not mean you abandon it, but that you are an ambassador to it.

Conclusion

When believers understand their obligations to the world, and fulfill them, revival will break out in their hearts.

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