



KINGDOM LIVING

Are You In?

Sunday 19th October 2025

Luke 3:4-14

1

Today we continue our new series – KINGDOM LIVING – is designed for you to **see and know how to live as people of the kingdom, by the power of the kingdom, for the purposes of the kingdom.**

2

Today we look at how John the Baptist introduced teaching on how to know if you are in the Kingdom of the heavens. John the Baptist had a ministry of a voice crying in the desert as the prophet Isaiah had described. In **Luke 3:4-6**,

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Over the 1,400 or so years since the law was first given to God’s people through Moses, there had been a slow decay away from obeying, honouring and worshipping God from a place of love and devotion to doing it because of how it makes me look, or how pleased God will be with me, or what suits my circumstances. And the Pharisees (added), Sadducees (subtracted), and the scribes (multiplied) and they all divided people from God.

3

So **now it is time for things to be straightened out and to be levelled so that everyone can see the kingdom of the heavens** and understand who God is and how we can enter into relationship with Him.

4

So who was trying to enter? **Luke 3:7**,

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”

5

Matthew 3:7 is a little more specific,

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”

John levels this first piece of unevenness. They thought just because they were descendants of Abraham, they were in. Jesus flattens out this mountain of misconception in **John 3:3**,

6

Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

7

Then in **verse 4** Nicodemus finds a dark valley of confusion,

Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

8

Jesus continues in **verse 6-7**,

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

9

Jesus concludes His conversation with Nicodemus in **John 3:14-15**,

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

10

So far, we have seen you do not get into the Kingdom by birthright but by the right birth.

11

Then **Luke** writes in **3:8**

Bear fruits in keeping with repentance.

If you have truly been born again fruit will appear. It will naturally grow, and you will want to produce it, and it cannot be forced. And another indicator that God is at work is **the desire to understand how we should live in the Kingdom**. When you go on holiday most of us will want to know ahead of time how things work in this other country, so we don’t appear rude or ignorant. So it is with the kingdom of the heavens.

12

13

Three questions John the Baptist answers here. Firstly, in **Luke 3:10-11**

And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹ And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.”

14

John was clear. God has not blessed you with a wardrobe so you get to pick and choose whatever you want and dress to impress each day, but so that you can bless.

15 Jesus expanded this in **Luke 6:38**,

give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Has not the King been generous with you? Then give! Worried about running out? Remember God is going to put way much more back into your lap! **And your fridge is for fellowship not for your feasting.**

16

17 Back in **Luke 3:12-13**,

Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³ And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.”

18

The King does not have a problem with tax, He has an issue with dishonest gain. **Work your full shift, avoid short cuts in your work, pay all your taxes, take responsibility for your responsibilities.** That’s how you live in the kingdom of the heavens.

19

And lastly the soldiers in **Luke 3:14**,

Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

What’s behind this wisdom of the kingdom of the heavens is this. Do not misuse your position or take an authority which is not yours. Don’t threaten the children with dad’s authority in dad’s absence. Or threaten your co-worker with I’ll tell the boss when she’s back. Or use others to get what you really want.

20

Are you in?