

# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses  
of glory*

MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: DANIEL BRUNO, LENNY TROCHE

DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 2024

**Faithfully Live in "Kingdom Now", Persistently Pray for "Kingdom Come"**

Luke 17:20 - 18:8

## Jesus's Encouragement For Troubling Times: Continually Entrust Yourself to a Caring Father

**Luke 18:1** *And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.. 2 He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' 4 For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. 7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"*

## King Jesus's arrival inaugurated the unfolding of the surprising Kingdom of God

**Luke 17:20** *Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, 21 nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."*

**Luke 11:20** *But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*

"Christ's kingdom is any situation in which (1) Christ is recognized as king, (2) his will is obeyed and (3) obedient subjects reap the benefits of his rule."

—David Mains, (Thy Kingship Come p.34)

## King Jesus's return to fully implement his just reign...

1. ...follows an indefinite period of trouble—*prepare for the long haul!*

**Luke 17:22** *And he said to the disciples, "The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it."*

2. ...will be unmistakably obvious to all—*don't get misled by counterfeits!*

**Luke 17:23** *And they will say to you, 'Look, there!' or 'Look, here!' Do not go out or follow them. 24 For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day.*

3. ...comes only after his suffering and rejection by his people—*prepare to be unpopular!*

**Luke 17:25** *But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.*

**John 15:20** *Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.*

4. ...arrives with judgment for the self-absorbed — *stay alert!*

**Luke 17:26** *Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, 29 but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— 30 so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.*

5. ...necessitates that disciples keep our priorities straight — *practice Kingdom living!*

**Luke 17:31** *On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back. 32 Remember Lot's wife. 33 Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it. 34 I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. 35 There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left." 37 And they said to him, "Where, Lord?" He said to them, "Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather."*

## Reflect, Discuss, Apply

1. How does Jesus's teaching in Luke 17:20-37 enrich your understanding of his parable in Luke 18:1-8?
2. Read the quote from David Mains. How are you experiencing life in the "Kingdom now?"
3. What in your life is currently causing you to lose heart or makes you drift toward a sense of hopelessness or cynicism? How might Jesus's teaching on how to pray in Luke 11:2-4 shift address your emotional pain?
4. What are some experiences or events that make you long for King Jesus to fully implement his Kingdom? Take time to pray to your loving Father who will certainly bring justice. Read 2 Peter 3, thanking the Lord for his patience even as we long for his certain justice.

### SONGS

"God Is For Us"  
"Come Thou Fount"  
"Names"  
"All Hail King Jesus"

### BUDGET

Giving Last Week: \$31,489.01  
Weekly Need: \$38,322  
YTD Giving: \$191,986.87  
YTD General Need: \$229,932  
Altamont Expansion Fund (2/12): \$124,762.98

### COMMUNICATION & GIVING

Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please pass the envelopes to the ushers or deposit them in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!

### GET ON THE VBC FAMILY ROSTER

