



5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Amazing, Isn't It!

Jesus continued to go throughout all Galilee fulfilling hundreds of years of Old Testament prophecies that foretold of the coming Messiah.

¹⁶When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures.

¹⁷The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:

*¹⁸'The Spirit of the LORD is upon me,
for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,
that the blind will see,
that the oppressed will be set free,
¹⁹and that the time of the LORD's favor has come.'*

²⁰He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. ²¹Then he began to speak to them. 'The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!'"
(Luke 4:16-21 NLT)

The implication is clear. Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah who would bring the Kingdom of God which had been long promised. The Scripture that Jesus was reading from was Isaiah 61:1-2, a Messianic passage. *"The time of the LORD's favor,"* was the Kingdom being offered to them through Him (Luke 4:21 NLT).

Meanwhile, John the Baptist's ministry of calling people to repentance and baptism was coming to an end. Jesus said,

"Until John the Baptist, the law of Moses and the messages of the prophets were your guides. But now the Good News of the Kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is eager to get in." (Luke 16:16 NLT)

John's eager expectations of a conquering and ruling Messiah were somewhat in dismay as John found himself in prison. John called for his disciples to go to Jesus and ask this question,

³'Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?'

⁴Jesus told them, ‘Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen— ⁵the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.’
⁶And tell him, ‘God blesses those who do not turn away because of me.’

⁷As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. ‘What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind? ⁸Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people with expensive clothes live in palaces. ⁹Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet.
¹⁰John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say,

“Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
and he will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹‘I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist.’” (Matthew 11:3-11 NLT)

Jesus’ answer to John’s question, “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting?” was answered by Jesus’ miracles and Isaiah’s prophecies.

¹⁸In that day the deaf will hear words read from a book,
and the blind will see through the gloom and darkness.

¹⁹The humble will be filled with fresh joy from the Lord.
The poor will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.” (Isaiah 29:18-19 NLT)

⁵And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind
and unplug the ears of the deaf.

⁶The lame will leap like a deer,
and those who cannot speak will sing for joy!...
⁸And a great road will go through that once deserted land.
It will be named the Highway of Holiness.
Evil-minded people will never travel on it.
It will be only for those who walk in God’s ways;
fools will never walk there.” (Isaiah 35:5-6, 8 NLT)

Jesus’ miracles and Isaiah’s prophecies were the proof that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, promised to Israel 700 years before His birth. That is amazing, isn’t it!

Questions

1 Jesus was who He claimed to be or He was a liar and deceiver. What do you say?

Answer Key

7 Jesus was who He claimed to be or He was a liar and deceiver. What do you say?

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” (John 14:6 NKJV)

We want to hear from you!

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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