

Title: THY KINGDOM HERE AND NOW, MARK 6:1-13  
(Chatham, NJ; 07/08/12, AM) [D, E – Topical]

Theme: The Kingdom of God came with the ministry and resurrection of Christ, and the message of repentance still resonates to call people back to God.

Purpose: To remind us that we are in the Kingdom of God at the present time, to preach the necessity of repentance in order to enter, and to caution against the hardness of heart that prevents people from seeing the presence of the Kingdom.

Introduction:

1. Fallen humanity still rebels against the rule of God.
2. Though much more, the Kingdom of God can be understood as his rule in the hearts of mankind.
3. The episodes of Jesus' life in Mark 6 remind us of three things pertaining to it.

## I. The Kingdom Is Here Now

### A. Coming

1. Developing under Samuel and David
2. Samuel taught people how to live under God, 1 Samuel 7:3-4
3. Asking for a king demonstrated lack of faith on Israel's part
4. David received a promise that a new king would come

### B. Near

1. Jesus announced that the Kingdom was near, Mark 1:15
2. He was the expected king, John 18:37

### C. Arrived

1. The disciples questioned Jesus concerning the kingdom, Acts 1:6
2. The Jerusalem council declared it by quoting Amos, Acts 15:16-17
3. Colossians 1:13 declared its presence
4. Yet it is still to come when time ceases and the Day of Judgment arrives

## II. The Unbelief of Many

### A. Jesus' hometown rejects him, 6:1-6

1. What is the source of their unbelief? Familiarity?
2. Why does their unbelief prevent him from doing many miracles?
3. Does no one ask him to do them? Or expect him to be able to do them?
4. They don't deny the miracles nor his wisdom, 2
5. "They took offense at him," 3
6. Similar to what happens in Luke, but there Jesus gives a very negative critique of them, and perhaps of all of Israel
7. I think he didn't satisfy their false Messianic expectations
8. Like those who grumbled in the desert and longed for what they had in Egypt, salvation on God's terms didn't satisfy them
9. He marveled at their unbelief, 6

### B. Forgetfulness

1. Moses warned Israel about forgetting, Deut. 6:10-12
2. In western societies we have become so familiar with certain assumptions about life but have forgotten where they came from
3. Giving and good works, for example, derive their true meaning from God not philosophy or political activism

4. Furthermore, our notion of limited government is founded on the principle that men are sinners; checks and balances needed; power limited by three different branches

C. Hardness of heart

1. Eph. 4:18 – hardness of heart may be the most apt description
2. Darkened understanding, ignorance have bred callousness to moral teaching
3. I suspect this is at the heart of the first two reasons

III. People Need to Repent (Now as much as ever)

A. Same message early and often

1. Amos 4:12 – “prepare to meet your God”
2. John’s message
3. Jesus’ first message, Mark 1:15
4. The essence of the disciples’ task, 6:12

B. The great virtue

1. George Herbert called this the “great virtue of the Gospel”
2. But many offer resistance to it, and that may be the cause of much unbelief or more like unwillingness
3. I think the hometown folks said to themselves, “There’s nothing wrong with us.”

C. Already the problem

1. Admiral E. Fluckey commanded the USS Barb in WWII; he commanded with the premise that there are no problems, only solutions
2. He wasn’t ignoring problems that arose
3. Everyone thinks that something is wrong
4. Once we accept that things have gone wrong, then we must seek a solution
5. Many of us reject the premise that the problem is sin
6. The Bible’s premise is clear: all have sinned (Romans 3:23), all are already condemned
7. Repentance is the way of the Gospel

Conclusions:

1. The Kingdom has come and the king is on the throne, 1 Peter 3:22.
2. Hear and accept the truth about humanity: all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
3. Repent! Believe the Gospel that is the only hope for mankind.
4. Acceptance of this not only demands a confession of faith but baptism for the remission of your sins.
5. This is the answer to the problem. Accept it today!