

# SERMON NOTES

Week 1 March 16, 2025

“The Kingdom of God is Near”

Mark 1:14-15; John 3:1-15



## I. Introduction

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ have the power to change a person’s life and world.
- B. Without the \_\_\_\_\_, we would be a philosophy.
- C. The Kingdom has everything to do with God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. The Kingdom Has Come Near

- A. God reigns over \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Jesus spoke about the Kingdom in \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Jesus invited people to follow him and \_\_\_\_\_ them what the Kingdom of God was like.

## III. Kingdom That is Still to Come

- A. The Kingdom of God is both \_\_\_\_\_ and still to come.
- B. Jesus calls us to \_\_\_\_\_ and believe in the Gospel.
- C. Work to close the \_\_\_\_\_ between our world and the Kingdom of God.

### *Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message*

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *March 17-22, 2025*

## INTRODUCTION

Lent is here; and with it our season of self-reflection as we journey towards the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. This year, we examine some of the most world-changing words of our Lord. In this first week we examined Jesus' remark about God's Kingdom coming near. God's sovereignty and justice are celebrated qualities of our Creator. Let us joyfully continue our exploration of what makes the Kingdom of God so impactful for us individually and for the world. Amen?

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### Monday: Daniel 7:27

The New Testament is not the only place where the Kingdom of God is referenced. The Old Testament contains the promise and concept of this new age that God will bring about. In this reading from Daniel, we consider the everlasting kingdom that is to come. How do you understand the "here and still to come" Kingdom of God?

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### Tuesday: Zechariah 14:9

One of the defining characteristics of the Lord is that God reigns over all things. From Creation to the great vision in Revelation, nothing is greater than the Lord. We struggle in a world torn apart by sin and in opposition to God. In what ways do you see the creation attesting to God's sovereignty?

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### Wednesday: Lyrics from "Hymn of Promise"

You are invited to sing or read the lyrics of "Hymn of Promise" found in the United Methodist Hymnal, #707 (or via <https://digitalsongsandhymns.com/songs/9790>). What line most speaks to you in this season of your faith journey? The song's opening verse speaks to how from little bulbs come from flowers and from seeds apple trees. Consider what God is bringing into the world through you.

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### Thursday: Matthew 13:24-30

In this parable, the imaginary owner of the field does not wish to lose the wheat amid rooting out the weeds. We may agree and see the wisdom in not destroying a crop just to remove something unwanted; however, some of us may not show ourselves the same grace. When we are disappointed with ourselves, can we consider how God sees us and redirect our energy to repentance, restoration, and moving forward with the Lord?

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### Friday: John 3:16-17

While the sermon took us through verses 1-15, Pastor Rick notes: "how could I deny you, o dear church, the joy of reading the famous and beloved John 3:16?" Let us reflect upon the reason behind the Kingdom coming, Jesus' birth, sacrifice, and resurrection: God's great and boundless love. In light of this, how can we change our attitude towards the Kingdom since it comes to change all things out of God's never-failing and never-ending love?

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## MOVING FORWARD

The Kingdom of God is ours to cherish as a promise of God, reality in Jesus Christ, and ongoing development across our world. The Spirit is at work helping to close the gap between our sin-sick world and God's will. Let us draw nearer to Christ and the Kingdom he brings. Amen?

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Words B) Kingdom, C) reign. IIA) everything, B) parables, C) showed. IIIA) here, B) repent, C) gap.*