

Jesus' Message and Mission

Lesson 9 Summary

Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will grow in their understanding of how Jesus used parables to communicate the Kingdom of God.
- The participants will explore the concept of the Reign of God and how it guided Jesus' mission.

Content Summary

1. Jesus' mission begins after his Baptism and temptation in the desert. The four Gospels all point to one thing: that as the savior of all humanity, Jesus' mission is to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to be a sign of the Kingdom.
2. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches that in the Kingdom of God, people will grow to reflect God's perfect love (see Matthew 5:48).
3. The parables are stories Jesus told that often had a surprising twist, to shock the people who were hearing them into a new way of seeing things.
4. Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God is wherever people are trying to live out God's call to love and forgiveness in a way that goes beyond the "minimum requirements."
5. Jesus' whole life, his love for people, his care for the poor and unnoticed, his miracles, his forgiveness of sins, and his acceptance of his suffering and death made his words real, and revealed the nature of the Kingdom of God.
6. Jesus' miracles show that he had power over all creation.
7. At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus gathered a group of women and men whom he taught by his word and example. Jesus prepared these disciples to share in his mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God.
8. The Gospels speak about twelve special disciples, referred to as the Apostles, who were Jesus' inner circle.
9. The relationship between Jesus and his disciples teaches us a couple things about the Kingdom of God: (1) that God's Kingdom isn't just the relationship between you and Jesus but the relationship between you, other believers, and Jesus and (2) that God wants us to take part in proclaiming the Gospel message.
10. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Church has the responsibility for continuing Jesus' mission of proclaiming and making real the Kingdom of God.

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