

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Jesus preached a simple message to the people of his day. The kingdom of God—is at hand. It applies to us just as much as it did to them. It has an application to the very kingdom of God in our midst. John the Baptist came with the message that the kingdom of God was breaking into this world. “The kingdom of God is coming.” Jesus’ own preaching says simply: “The kingdom of God is at hand!” That was not just true two thousand years ago. The kingdom of God is still at hand, right here, all around us. It is for us to recognize, name and embrace. Where is it? Right before your eyes. Have you the eyes to see? To recognize? When there is a word of forgiveness spoken where before there was hatred, the kingdom of God is at hand. When there is a level of care extended to those who are downtrodden, the kingdom of God is at hand. When there is compassion where before there was indifference the kingdom of God is at hand. When there is truth where before there were only excuses or blame or rationalizations, the kingdom of God is at hand. When there is integrity instead of duplicity the kingdom of God is at hand.

Where there is self-control where before there was only lust, the kingdom of God is at hand. When a person acts humbly and meekly when before they acted arrogantly or in an overbearing manner, the kingdom of God is at hand. It is always right there, always close at hand. But we must seek to recognize it. If we do not recognize the kingdom of God in our midst when it is all around us what makes us think that we will recognize it when we stand before God in judgment. It will still be right there but we will not see. And if we do not recognize it then how will we be able to enter it? We might walk right on by and never realize that we looked right at it but didn’t realize what we were looking right at. Have you ever thought of that? That is the question of the week.