

## Chapter 38

### Paul Teaches About Jesus And God's Kingdom

#### BIBLE

On the next day, the people rose early, and built an altar there, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.<sup>1</sup> Paul, as was his custom, went in to them, and for three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the Scriptures.<sup>2</sup>

When they had appointed him a day, many people came to him at his lodging. He explained to them, testifying about God's Kingdom, and persuading them concerning Jesus, both from the law of Moses and from the prophets, from morning until evening.<sup>3</sup>

He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you, and more will be given to you who hear."<sup>4</sup>

"Now I say this, brothers, that flesh and blood can't inherit God's Kingdom; neither does corruption inherit incorruption."<sup>5</sup> For God's Kingdom is not in word, but in power.<sup>6</sup>

"Neither will they say, 'Look, here!' or, 'Look, there!' for behold, God's Kingdom is within you."<sup>7</sup>

#### COMMENTARY

<sup>1</sup> **Judges 21:4**

<sup>2</sup> **Acts 17:2**

<sup>3</sup> **Acts 28:23** "God's Kingdom," or the "kingdom of heaven," is an enlightened state of consciousness where we are one with the Divine. We have learned to get our human mind out of the way, and we feel connected to something greater than ourselves.

<sup>4</sup> **Mark 4:24** Chinese proverb: "A mind enlightened is heaven. A mind darkened is hell."

<sup>5</sup> **1 Corinthians 15:50** Leo Tolstoy: "Don't seek god in temples. He is close to you. He is within you. Only you should surrender to him and you will rise above happiness and unhappiness."

<sup>6</sup> **1 Corinthians 4:20** Dale Carnegie: "Obviously, circumstances alone do not make us happy or unhappy. It is the way we react to circumstances that determines our feelings. Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven is within you. That is where the kingdom of hell is, too."

<sup>7</sup> **Luke 17:21** Swami Vivekananda: "The Kingdom of Heaven is within us. God is within us. He is the Soul of our souls. See him in your own soul. That is practical religion. That is freedom."

“God created man in his own image. In God’s image he created him; male and female he created them.<sup>8</sup> I said, you are gods, all of you are sons of the Most High.<sup>9</sup>

“Hold the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.<sup>10</sup>

“Jesus went about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.<sup>11</sup>

“Being asked by the Pharisees when God’s Kingdom would come, he answered them, ‘God’s Kingdom doesn’t come with observation.’<sup>12</sup>

“Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.<sup>13</sup>

“He said, ‘What is God’s Kingdom like? To what shall I compare it?’<sup>14</sup> Jesus answered, ‘Most certainly I tell you, unless one is born of water and spirit, he can’t enter into God’s Kingdom!’<sup>15</sup>

“Again he said, ‘To what shall I compare God’s Kingdom?’<sup>16</sup> Jesus answered him, ‘Most certainly, I tell you, unless one is born anew, he can’t see God’s Kingdom.’<sup>17</sup>

<sup>8</sup> **Genesis 1:27** St. John of the Cross: “The soul is in itself a most lovely and perfect image of God.”

<sup>9</sup> **Psalm 82:6** Our real identity is ultimately God, or consciousness itself. We are spiritual entities having a human experience.

<sup>10</sup> **2 Timothy 1:13**

<sup>11</sup> **Matthew 4:23** [*Paul begins to teach about Jesus*]

<sup>12</sup> **Luke 17:20** Jesus is informing the religious leaders of his day that God’s Kingdom is not an actual place that we can see with our physical senses.

<sup>13</sup> **John 3:1** Anonymous: “Heaven. Don’t miss it for the world.”

<sup>14</sup> **Luke 13:18**

<sup>15</sup> **John 3:5** Being born of water through water baptism is an outward symbol of the transformational process, a statement that we are now embarking on the conscious phase of our spiritual journey. A public ceremony such as this can be quite helpful to those who want to make a declaration that they are now committed to higher awareness. Others can help keep them on the path. But for the transformation to take hold, there must be a corresponding inner process. We must also be born of the spirit.

<sup>16</sup> **Luke 13:20**

<sup>17</sup> **John 3:3** To be “born anew” is to die to our false self and align with our true nature.

“Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born?’<sup>18</sup>

“Jesus answered him, ‘Are you the teacher of Israel, and don't understand these things?’<sup>19</sup> If I told you earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?’<sup>20</sup>

“But Jesus said to him, ‘No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for God's Kingdom.’<sup>21</sup>

“Nicodemus answered him, ‘How can these things be?’<sup>22</sup> Jesus wept.<sup>23</sup>

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.<sup>24</sup> Have this in your mind, which was also in Christ Jesus.”<sup>25</sup>

A certain young man named Eutychus sat in the window, weighed down with deep sleep. As Paul spoke still longer, being weighed down by his sleep, he fell down from the third story, and was taken up dead.<sup>26</sup>

Paul went down, and fell upon him, and embracing him said, “Don't be troubled, for his life is in him.”<sup>27</sup> I will lay the key of the house of David on his shoulder. He will open, and no one will shut. He will shut, and no one will open.”<sup>28</sup>

<sup>18</sup> **John 3:4**

<sup>19</sup> **John 3:10**

<sup>20</sup> **John 3:12** Teaching others about “heavenly things” helps us to attain self mastery over spiritual principles. All the great spiritual masters have also been teachers.

<sup>21</sup> **Luke 9:62** Someone who has “his hand to the plow, and looking back” is a person who is dwelling on the past. God is found only in the present moment. John: “The whole Beatles' message was Be Here Now.”

<sup>22</sup> **John 3:9**

<sup>23</sup> **John 11:35** This scripture is the shortest verse in the Bible.

<sup>24</sup> **Luke 2:52** Jesus did not incarnate into the Earth plane as a fully realized spiritual being. Just like the rest of us, he had to wake up to his own Divinity. He is our role model, our way shower, our elder brother. He is the “great example,” but not the “great exception.”

<sup>25</sup> **Philippians 2:5** Our objective is to have the mind of Christ. Albert Einstein: “All I want to learn is how to think like God thinks.”

<sup>26</sup> **Acts 20:9**

<sup>27</sup> **Acts 20:10**

<sup>28</sup> **Isaiah 22:22** “The key of the house of David” that Paul lays on his shoulder is Divine power and authority, something we all have. In “Hey Jude,” Paul reminds us that “the movement you need is on your shoulders.”

He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? How is it that you have no faith? <sup>29</sup> Yahweh will sustain him on his sickbed, and restore him from his bed of illness.”<sup>30</sup>

“Yahweh takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his loving kindness.”<sup>31</sup> Yet in this thing you didn’t believe Yahweh your God.”<sup>32</sup>

He said to them, “Foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!”<sup>33</sup> Who has believed our message? To whom has the arm of Yahweh been revealed?”<sup>34</sup>

Then they believed his words. They sang his praise.<sup>35</sup> They brought the boy in alive, and were greatly comforted.<sup>36</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out with tears, “I believe. Help my unbelief!”<sup>37</sup>

Paul, looking steadfastly at the council, said, “Brothers, I have lived before God in all good conscience until today.<sup>38</sup> If I don’t do the works of my Father, don’t believe me.<sup>39</sup> But if I do them, though you don’t believe me, believe the works; that you may know and believe that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”<sup>40</sup>

<sup>29</sup> **Mark 4:40** Joseph Murphy, *The Power of the Subconscious Mind*: “The process of all healing is a definite, positive, mental attitude, an inner attitude, or a way of thinking, called faith”

<sup>30</sup> **Psalm 41:3**

<sup>31</sup> **Psalm 147:11** “Fear” in this sense means respect and awe for Divine power. This power supports our good and lifts all things toward wholeness and completion. When we are in alignment with this power through our thoughts, words, and actions, Yahweh takes pleasure in us because we are serving His purpose.

<sup>32</sup> **Deuteronomy 1:32**

<sup>33</sup> **Luke 24:25**

<sup>34</sup> **Isaiah 53:1** John: “If the Beatles or the 60’s had a message, it was ‘Learn to swim. And once you’ve learned- swim!’”

<sup>35</sup> **Psalm 106:12**

<sup>36</sup> **Acts 20:12**

<sup>37</sup> **Mark 9:24**

<sup>38</sup> **Acts 23:1**

<sup>39</sup> **John 10:37**

<sup>40</sup> **John 10:38** The conscious realization of our oneness with the Father is the goal in spiritual practice. Our success in manifesting favorable conditions in the outer world depends on the condition of our inner world. Eckhart Tolle: “Was Jesus the son of God? Yes. But so are you. You just haven’t realized it yet.”

“For this cause I, Paul, am the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles.<sup>41</sup> For the law was given through Moses. Grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.<sup>42</sup>

“Jesus said, ‘For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.’<sup>43</sup> I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in the darkness.’<sup>44</sup>

“Jesus went about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.<sup>45</sup>

“Now it happened on one of those days, that he entered into a boat, himself and his disciples, and he said to them, ‘Let’s go over to the other side of the lake.’ So they launched out.<sup>46</sup>

“But as they sailed, he fell asleep. A wind storm came down on the lake, and they were taking on dangerous amounts of water.<sup>47</sup>

“They came to him, and awoke him, saying, ‘Master, master, we are dying!’ He awoke, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water, and they ceased, and it was calm.<sup>48</sup>

<sup>41</sup> **Ephesians 3:1** “Christ” is the activity of God within each one of us. Jesus of Nazareth became the Christ, the God-man. “Christ Jesus” is the perfect man demonstrated. Our goal is to be a “prisoner” to our Divine self, never letting the thought of who we really are escape from our awareness.

<sup>42</sup> **John 1:17** Jesus demonstrated and taught how to go beyond blind obedience to a set of rules and wake up to the indwelling Christ presence.

<sup>43</sup> **John 9:39** [*Paul continues to teach about Jesus*]

<sup>44</sup> **John 12:46** Traditional church doctrine teaches the Divinity of Jesus, whereas Jesus taught the Divinity of Man.

<sup>45</sup> **Matthew 9:35** Karen Armstrong: “Jesus did not spend a great deal of time discoursing about the trinity or original sin or the incarnation, which have preoccupied later Christians. He went around doing good and being compassionate.”

<sup>46</sup> **Luke 8:22** John Eldredge: “If only Jesus’ followers shared his personality. That one shift alone would correct so many of the ridiculous and horrifying things that pass for popular Christianity.”

<sup>47</sup> **Luke 8:23**

<sup>48</sup> **Luke 8:24** Faith in Jesus, and in the Christ presence, offers calm in the midst of life’s storms.

“The men marveled, saying, ‘What kind of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?’<sup>49</sup>

“But he said, ‘The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.’<sup>50</sup>

“Looking at them, Jesus said, ‘With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’<sup>51</sup> Most certainly I tell you, he who believes in me, the works that I do, he will do also; and he will do greater works than these, because I am going to my Father.’<sup>52</sup>

“Jesus cried out and said, ‘Whoever believes in me, believes not in me, but in him who sent me.’<sup>53</sup> He who sees me sees him who sent me.’<sup>54</sup>

“Jesus said unto them, ‘Verily, verily I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am!’<sup>55</sup>

“They were all amazed, and were perplexed, saying one to another, ‘What does this mean?’<sup>56</sup> Jesus answered them, ‘Isn’t it written in your law: I said, you are gods?’<sup>57</sup>

“When Jesus returned, the multitude welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him.<sup>58</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch.’<sup>59</sup>

<sup>49</sup> **Matthew 8:27** (Anonymous)  
“What good is having someone who can walk on water if you don’t follow in his footsteps?”

<sup>50</sup> **Luke 18:27**

<sup>51</sup> **Matthew 19:26**

<sup>52</sup> **John 14:12** Jesus is encouraging his followers that they too have the capability of fully realizing and expressing their own Divinity.

<sup>53</sup> **John 12:44** George: “Everyone is a potential Jesus Christ, really. We are all trying to get to where Jesus Christ got. And we’re going to be on this world until we get there.”

<sup>54</sup> **John 12:45**

<sup>55</sup> **John 8:58** Jesus is speaking as the Christ, the “I am” presence that is the power of God expressing as us, in us, and through us.

<sup>56</sup> **Acts 2:12**

<sup>57</sup> **John 10:34** George: “Everybody is potentially divine. It’s just a matter of self-realization before it will all happen.”

<sup>58</sup> **Luke 8:40** Neal A. Maxwell:

“Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus!”

<sup>59</sup> **Luke 5:4** Jesus is not teaching a new fishing technique here. The master is encouraging his followers to go deeper in their spiritual quest so that they can “come up higher.” In “Everybody’s Got Something To Hide Except For Me And My Monkey” John reminds us that “the deeper you go, the higher you fly.”



“Simon answered him, ‘Master, we worked all night, and took nothing; but at your word I will let down the net.’<sup>60</sup> When they had done this, they caught a great multitude of fish, and their net was breaking.<sup>61</sup>

“After these things, Jesus went away to the other side of the sea of Galilee, which is also called the Sea of Tiberias.<sup>62</sup> Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast.<sup>63</sup>

“A certain ruler asked him, saying, ‘Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’<sup>64</sup>

“Jesus asked him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good, except one-God.’<sup>65</sup> A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.’<sup>66</sup>

“A certain centurion’s servant, who was dear to him, was sick and at the point of death.<sup>67</sup>

“Jesus said to the centurion, ‘Go your way. Let it be done for you as you have believed.’ His servant was healed in that hour.<sup>68</sup> Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.’<sup>69</sup>

<sup>60</sup> **Luke 5:5** Jeff Foxworthy: “Look at where Jesus went to pick people. He didn't go to the colleges; he got guys off the fishing docks.”

<sup>61</sup> **Luke 5:6**

<sup>62</sup> **John 6:1**

<sup>63</sup> **Genesis 29:22**

<sup>64</sup> **Luke 7:2**

<sup>65</sup> **Matthew 8:13** Jesus is making an important distinction to his followers, explaining to them that he is not God, but rather what God expressed fully in human form looks like. He is God incarnate.

<sup>66</sup> **Luke 18:19** Jesus is reminding his followers that they have the potential to do what he has done if they follow his example and his teachings.

<sup>67</sup> **Luke 6:40**

<sup>68</sup> **Mark 9:23** Rick Warren: “I serve a higher power, Jesus Christ. I make no apologies in saying that.”

<sup>69</sup> **Luke 18:18** Montauk: “Thus to elevate Jesus the man, the personality that walked the earth two millennia ago, to so high and unique a status that he becomes an idol and we become but unworthy worshipers, is to go against the very mission and words of Jesus Christ because it keeps us down on our knees instead of rising up and meeting his example. Jesus pointed at the Truth, and people worship his finger. We must walk in his footsteps in order to rise shoulder to shoulder with him.”

“It happened, when Jesus had finished saying these things, that the multitudes were astonished at his teaching,<sup>70</sup> for he taught them with authority, and not like the scribes.<sup>71</sup>

“One of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, testing him.<sup>72</sup> ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?’<sup>73</sup>

“Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’<sup>74</sup> This is the first and great commandment.<sup>75</sup> A second likewise is this: you shall love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>76</sup>

“The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.<sup>77</sup> Now I Paul, myself, entreat you by the humility and gentleness of Christ; I who in your presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>70</sup> **Matthew 7:28**

<sup>71</sup> **Matthew 7:29** Eric Butterworth: “Fundamentalists believe Jesus was God becoming man. I believe that Jesus was man becoming God.”

<sup>72</sup> **Matthew 22:35**

<sup>73</sup> **Matthew 22:36** Abhijit Naskar: “Jesus Christ, from Nazareth was a glorious man in human history – a man filled with love, compassion and purity of conscience.”

<sup>74</sup> **Matthew 22:37**

<sup>75</sup> **Matthew 22:38** This commandment directs us to express gratitude for life itself and for the Creator that makes everything possible.

<sup>76</sup> **Matthew 22:39** Jesus is reminding us that when we honor ourselves and live our life in a constant state of love and appreciation, following a set of rules is unnecessary.

<sup>77</sup> **Matthew 22:40** Joel Osteen: “I don't argue when people say that my message is simple, but I believe Jesus' message was simple.”

<sup>78</sup> **2 Corinthians 10:1** John Shelby Spong: “The religion called Christianity is dying, the casualty of an expanded world view. The God experience in Jesus - that experience is which Christianity is built - is newly dawning and will in time create new forms through which that new vision can live. Once Jesus is freed from the prison of religion, a renaissance and a reformation are possible.”



“There are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they would all be written, I suppose that even the world itself wouldn’t have room for the books that would be written.”<sup>79</sup>

“He is the one who comes after me, who is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I’m not worthy to loosen.”<sup>80</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by Isaiah the prophet, saying, ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness, make ready the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.’<sup>81</sup>

<sup>79</sup> **John 21:25** C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*: “I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

<sup>80</sup> **John 1:27** Christian apologist Josh McDowell: “If there were more than one path to salvation then it would totally negate Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, his life, his teachings.”

<sup>81</sup> **Matthew 3:3** Deepak Chopra: “Jesus intended to save the world by showing others the path to God- consciousness.”

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”<sup>82</sup> Thus consider yourselves also to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.<sup>83</sup>

“Go stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.”<sup>84</sup> And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.<sup>85</sup>

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”<sup>86</sup>

When he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit!”<sup>87</sup> When he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly.<sup>88</sup>

<sup>82</sup> **Hebrews 13:8** Paul: “Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away ...I believe in yesterday...I long for yesterday” (“Yesterday”). In Paul’s classic, “yesterday” represents peace of mind, the same kind of freedom from emotional pain that Christ consciousness provides. The indwelling Christ presence is eternal, always available, and never changes; the same yesterday, today and forever.

The melody and the title for “Yesterday” came to Paul in a dream. Paul: “It was my most successful song. It’s amazing that it came to me in a dream. That’s why I don’t profess to know anything; I think music is all very mystical.”

<sup>83</sup> **Romans 6:11** When we embody Christ consciousness, we are “dead to sin,” no longer separated from our Source.

<sup>84</sup> **Acts 5:20** Once we know the truth, we want to share it with others. “I’d love to turn you on,” the Beatles declare in “A Day In The Life.” Paul: “What we really wanted was to turn you on to the truth rather than just bloody pot!”

<sup>85</sup> **Colossians 3:15** Izaak Walton: “God has two dwellings; one in heaven, and the other in a meek and thankful heart.”

<sup>86</sup> **Philippians 4:23**

<sup>87</sup> **John 20:22**

<sup>88</sup> **Acts 19:41**