

The 72

Discipleship for the Gospel of the Kingdom

Theme: Discerning the Gospel of the Kingdom

February 20th, 2024**1 Introduction**

➤ The 72 in 2024

Luke 10:1 (CSB)

¹After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others, and he sent them ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself was about to go.

- **OUR MISSION:** SHOW-UP WHERE JESUS WANTS TO SHOW-UP.
- **OUR VISION:** EQUIPPING DISCIPLES OF JESUS TO REVEAL THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM IN REAL LIFE.

➤ What are we hearing from the “pulpits” of America?

- Are the things we’re applauding pointing to the Gospel of our Lord?
- You are probably feeling a lot of tension between all the voices speaking for the Lord.

➤ 5 Voices We Need to Discern that are in tension with one another

- The World’s Voice
- Friends’ Voices
- Demonic Voices
- Personal Voice
- God’s Voice

➤ What do I do with the Gospel and difficult scriptures that seem to be in tension with one another?

Romans 1:18 (CSB)

¹⁸For God’s wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth...

John 3:36 (CSB)

³⁶The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.

Ephesians 5:6 (CSB)

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty arguments, for God’s wrath is coming on the disobedient because of these things.

➤ Another Tension: What do we do with our deep-seated fear that the evil we see in the world looks and feels stronger than the Kingdom within us?

2 Two Huge Spirits fighting against the heart of God and His Gospel.

➤ *The Religious Spirit*

▪ **Matthew 23**

- The only time we see Jesus criticize in detail a whole group or nation of people are the religious leaders of Israel.

➤ *Relational Discord*

Proverbs 6:16–19 (CSB)

¹⁶ The LORD hates six things; in fact, seven are detestable to him: ¹⁷ arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ a heart that plots wicked schemes, feet eager to run to evil, ¹⁹ a lying witness who gives false testimony, and one who stirs up trouble among brothers.

- All of these primarily have to do with our relationship with others!

3 Discerning the Gospel of the Kingdom

➤ *We're disciples of Jesus.*

Matthew 28:18–20 (CSB)

¹⁸ Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Jesus has all authority in heaven and earth.
- We're sent to ALL nations!
- We're making disciples...who keep their focus on Jesus' Words.
 - Observe = keep in view; watch over; guard and protect; preserve for a purpose or until a suitable time.

➤ *Jesus preached and served under the "Good News of the Kingdom".*

Matthew 9:35–38 (NIV)

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

- *Jesus' ministry is a ministry of Spirit, fire, and flow.*

John 3:7–8 (CSB)

⁷ Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. ⁸ The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

- *The Gospel is, first and foremost, a message of compassion not condemnation.*

John 3:16–17 (NIV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

- *Jesus' message led to the literal dislodging of demonic oppression in people's personal lives.*

Mark 1:38–39 (CSB)

³⁸ And he said to them, "Let's go on to the neighboring villages so that I may preach there too. This is why I have come." ³⁹ He went into all of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

- *People were drawn to Jesus' message of healing.*

Mark 6:54–56 (CSB)

⁵⁴ As they got out of the boat, people immediately recognized him. ⁵⁵ They hurried throughout that region and began to carry the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ Wherever he went, into villages, towns, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch just the end of his robe. And everyone who touched it was healed.

- *Jesus was captivated by those who were being drawn to Him.*

Luke 19:9–10 (CSB)

⁹ "Today salvation has come to this house," Jesus told him, "because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost."

- *Jesus' reign is not limited or held in check by the governments of this world.*

John 18:36 (NIV)

³⁶ Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

- *At the end of it all, Jesus' heart was fixed on people's forgiveness rather than judgement.*

Luke 23:34 (TPT)

³⁴ While they were nailing Jesus to the cross, he prayed over and over, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." The soldiers, after they crucified him, gambled over his clothing.

- *The Apostle Paul understood the radical difference between living under law and grace.*
 - *You were made right with God before you were saved.*

Romans 5:10 (CSB)

¹⁰ For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

- *Righteousness is birthed out of our believing God.*

Galatians 3:1–6 (CSB)

¹ You foolish Galatians! Who has cast a spell on you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? ² I only want to learn this from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by believing what you heard? ³ Are you so foolish? After beginning by the Spirit, are you now finishing by the flesh? ⁴ Did you experience so much for nothing—if in fact it was for nothing? ⁵ So then, does God give you the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law? Or is it by believing what you heard—⁶ just like Abraham who **believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness?**

- *Righteousness is a product of faith leading into lifestyle.*

Romans 1:16–17 (CSB)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: **The righteous will live by faith.**

- *The inspirational draw of the Gospel is Christ's love.*

2 Corinthians 5:14–15 (CSB)

¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, since we have reached this conclusion, that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised.

- *The very definition of love is a safeguard against false gospels.*

1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (CSB)

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, ⁵ is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. ⁶ Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

4 **Summary: Developing a Filter for Discerning the Gospel of the Kingdom**

- Does our view of others increase compassion or a critical spirit?
- Does our message lead to another's healing or destruction?
- Does our message draw for transformation or repel by accusation?
- Does the Bible's definition of love describe how others see God's love in us?
- Is the "wrath of God" something we see that people deserve, or something we see as a fruit of this age?