

Good morning! Do you believe in Jesus? *What* do you believe about Him? Jesus wasn't crucified for teaching people to be nicer to each other; He was crucified because He was found out---He represented another kingdom. Jesus didn't believe that His Hebrew culture was on the right path. He didn't believe that Rome was on the right path, either. He brought the message that there was *another kingdom*. Jesus' message was, "*Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand.*" The term "at hand" is progressive. It is like saying "The Kingdom of God is at hand. It's at hand; it's at hand; it's at hand; it's coming and coming and coming and it keeps on coming and it keeps on coming." The Kingdom of God is now and not yet. It is subversive. Of all the parables Jesus taught almost none of them mention God, and yet the coming of the Kingdom of God was His message. This morning, let's look together at just a few passages of scripture that speak to us of the subversive influence of the Kingdom of God:

"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts." **Zech. 4:6**

"You are the salt of the earth." **Matt. 5:13**

"The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds." **Matt. 13:31-32**

One of the most important things to know about the Kingdom of God is that it must be grown from within; we cannot impose it on anyone. Most of us know that we need a good understanding of Christian doctrine but we should also understand how to practice Christian subversion. Remember, Jesus isn't just the Truth---He's also the Way and the Life. The way the gospel is demonstrated and lived into the lives of those around us is as much a part of the Kingdom as the *truth* we tell. Jesus was subversive. People called Him Rabbi. Rabbis were respected but not thought of as particularly dangerous. He taught with parables, using stories about farming, and coins and pearls and the people listened...but it wasn't until later it dawned on them that what Jesus was advocating was an entirely new way to live. And then---when they suddenly saw it-- Jesus told them not to tell anyone! Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to subvert everything. Your politics won't solve the problems of society because society is in rebellion against God. Your church won't solve the problem because your church is contaminated with the world's fallen-ness. The Kingdom of God is at hand. This morning, let me encourage you to see people differently, to see God differently. God doesn't want to make you more religious; He wants to change you completely... from the inside out!