



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

September 15, 2024

“In the Gospel: The Kingdom of Heaven”

“Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, ‘The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is in your midst.’” (Luke 17:20-21, NIV)

The Gospel invites us into the Kingdom of God, offering a transformative vision for our lives. In Luke 17:20-21, Jesus tells the Pharisees, “The Kingdom of God is in your midst.” *[NIV] Other translations vary slightly, for example, “The Kingdom of God is among you.” *[NRSVUE] One striking translation I remember is, “The Kingdom of God is within you.” *[NKJV]

Regardless of the translation, this profound truth reminds us that our primary allegiance is to God and His Kingdom, not to worldly powers or personal ambitions. It calls us to reshape our values, aligning them with divine principles like humility, love, and justice, rather than the fleeting goals of this world.



This Gospel message encourages us to live in anticipation of the Kingdom’s ultimate fulfillment. Even though we experience glimpses of God’s reign today, the promise of its complete realization brings hope and purpose to our lives. It reassures us that despite the brokenness we see around us, God’s Kingdom will fully come, where justice, peace, and righteousness will reign.

The Gospel challenges us to actively participate in the Kingdom’s work. We are called to promote justice, mercy, and love within our communities, reflecting the Kingdom’s values in tangible ways. By feeding the hungry, forgiving wrongs, and standing with the marginalized, we become living witnesses of God’s reign, embodying the Kingdom of God “in our midst” today.

In a nutshell, Jesus’ message to the Christian movement that formed after his time on Earth was to live expectantly but assume responsibility for the present.

*[notes: NIV – New International Version; NRSVUE – New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition; NKJV – New King James Version]

Prayer Box: *pray for healing for Bill, Holland, Steve, Gail, Mia, Patti, Elizabeth, Florence, Danielle, and Dawn; pray for comfort and protection for Justin and comfort for his family; pray for all those suffering from severe weather and wildfires; pray for first responders; pray for an end to the divisiveness our country; pray for victims of violence; pray for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Bangladesh, and Sudan; pray for children starting school.*

Lord, hear our prayers!



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Some Raquette Lake Chapel History: The Spire

"In 1968 the dedication of the Church Spire took place. This was in memory of Carol Marian Jones, a counselor from Echo Camp. Carol was sailing instructor and cabin counselor at Echo Camp. Carol shared with her campers the dream of a steeple for the Chapel which the campers attended each summer. Before her fatal accident, Carol had planned to contact campers, counselors, and parents and surprise Skipper, (Mrs. Frances Clough Havinga), with the funds to erect a steeple. The steeple is a most appropriate memorial to Carol who loved nature, God, and all mankind."

[Excerpt from "Raquette Lake Chapel: The First Fifty Years" by The Anniversary Committee: Marguerite Fuge, Beatrice Waldron; photos taken from the internet]

