

Nearer Than You Realize
The Immanent Kingdom of God
Matthew 3:1-2; 4:17, 23; 9:35; 10:7

1. The first time, we hear it from John the Baptist (Matthew 3:2)
 - John in the desert
 - Isaiah's fulfillment (3:3, Isaiah 40:3)
 - The response of ordinary people (3:5-6)
 - The confrontation of religious people (3:7-10)
 - The One who "comes after me" (3:11-12)

2. The second time we hear it from Jesus (Matthew 4:17, 23)
 - Jesus' initial message (4:17)
 - The good news of the kingdom (4:23)
 - Corresponding wonders (4:23-25)

3. The third time we hear it from Jesus again (Matthew 9:35)
 - About the harvest (9:37)
 - About the workers
 - Something to ask for (9:38)

4. The fourth time we hear it as the core curriculum for the disciples as they preach (Matthew 10:7)
 - a. Go to the lost sheep of Israel.
 - b. Heal the sick, raise the dead. (10:8)
 - c. Freely you have received, freely give. (10:8)
 - d. Get ready for resistance. (10:11-23)
 - e. Don't take money with you.
 - f. Prepare to be resisted, arrested, hated. (10:17-22).
 - g. Be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. (10:16)
 - h. Rely on the Spirit. (10:19-20)
 - i. Stand firm to the end. (10:22)
 - j. Flee when necessary. (10:23)
 - k. Be my servants and students. Do what I do. (10:24-25)
 - l. What I whisper in the dark, I want you to speak in the daylight. (10:27)
 - m. Don't fear those who kill the body. (10:28)
 - n. Remember, you are valuable! (10:29-31)
 - o. Acknowledge Christ. (10:32-33)
 - p. Do not be mistaken about Christ's mission. (10:34-35)

- q. Put love and loyalty to Jesus above all others. (10:37-38)
- r. Take up your cross and follow.
- s. Find life by losing. (10:39)
- t. You and your work matter. (10:40-42)

Related scriptures:

Isaiah 52:7 *How lovely are the feet of them who bring good news.*

Matthew 5:17 *Every good tree bears good fruit.*

Matthew 23 *The seven woes of religious people*

Matthew 23:12 *Whoever exalts himself will be humble*

Psalms 25:9 *He guides the humble in what is right*

Luke 4:17 *Jesus fulfills Isaiah 61:1-2*

Acts 2:38-39 *Repent and be baptized, every one of you*

Acts 5:12 *The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people*

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 *Some sow, some water, some reap*

Galatians 3:3 *After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?*

1 Corinthians 16:13 *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith*

Romans 10:9 *If you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved*

1 John 3:16 *We ought to lay down our lives for our brothers*

1 Peter 4:10 *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others*

1 Corinthians 10:31 *do it all for the glory of God*

Recommended reading:

John Bright, *The Kingdom of God*

William P. Young, *The Shack*