

What Did Jesus Mean When He Said: The Kingdom is Within You?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fg2k9to7r_Q

Summary: The Kingdom Within

This video explores the teaching from Luke 17:21 that the "Kingdom of God is within you." The creator argues that this is not a future, external, or earned reality, but an immediate, internal presence that must be recognized rather than acquired (0:42-1:31).

Core Concepts and Points:

Misconception of the Kingdom: The Pharisees expected a political or external revolution. Jesus redirected this view, stating the Kingdom is not something you track on the horizon; it is a present reality (0:54-1:20).

The Mystical Perspective: Drawing on *Meister Eckhart*, the video posits that when the soul recognizes the Kingdom, no further instruction is needed; it has secured eternal life (1:45-2:05).

The "Pure Diamond": Referencing *Thomas Merton*, the video describes a "point of nothingness" or a "spark" at the center of every human being—an untouched point of truth that belongs to God (2:38-3:22).

The Layers of Ego: Why do we miss it? The video uses *Eckhart's* metaphor of "30 or 40 skins"—fear, noise, and societal conditioning—that cover the soul. Spiritual life is thus a process of *removing* these layers to reveal what was always there (3:43-4:25).

Practical Application: The Kingdom is accessed through stillness, not through achievement. It is a resource for "ordinary Tuesdays"—a way to return to peace beneath the noise of daily life (4:57-5:45).

Conceptual Chart: Traditional View vs. Mystical (Awakener) View

Feature	Traditional/External View	Mystical/Awakener View
Location	Out there, future	Within, now
Goal	Earn through behavior/belief	Recognize through stillness
Barrier	Sin/Distance from God	Fear/Noise (Layers of skin)
Method	Achievement/Performance	Removal/De-layering

Key Quotes and Scriptures:

Scripture: "The kingdom of God is within you" (*Luke 17:21*).

Meister Eckhart: "God is nearer to me than I am to myself. My existence depends on the nearness and the presence of God" (2:20-2:34).

Meister Eckhart (c. 1260 – 1327/28), born *Eckhart von Hochheim*, was a prominent 14th-century German *Dominican* theologian, philosopher, and mystic. He remains a foundational figure for those exploring Christian mysticism, as he focused on the experiential reality of the divine rather than mere doctrine. Key aspects of his life and work include:

- **Spiritual Focus:** He was a highly respected intellectual and preacher who taught about the intimate, direct union between the individual soul and God. He emphasized that God is "nearer to me than I am to myself"—a concept central to the mystical tradition as highlighted in the video (2:20-2:34).
- **Theological Influence:** He is considered one of the greatest Christian mystics. While he identified primarily as a Catholic preacher, his sermons and writings have profoundly influenced contemplative Christianity and spiritual philosophy for centuries.
- **Teachings on Awakening:** Eckhart argued that the spiritual life is not about achieving external goals, but about the internal recognition of the divine presence already within us. He used vivid imagery, such as the "skins" covering the soul, to describe how fear and societal noise prevent us from experiencing this truth (3:43-4:25).

Thomas Merton: "At the center of our being is a point of nothingness... like a pure diamond blazing with the invisible light of heaven" (2:52-3:09).

Thomas Merton (1915–1968) was an American Trappist monk, writer, theologian, and mystic. Often considered the most influential American Catholic author of the twentieth century, he spent much of his adult life at the *Abbey of Gethsemani* in Kentucky.

Key aspects of his legacy include:

- **Spiritual Writing:** He became world-renowned after the publication of his autobiography, *The Seven Storey Mountain*. His work focused on the power of prayer, humility, and the search for God at the center of human existence.
- **Mystical Perspective:** As the video highlights, Merton famously wrote about the "point of nothingness" or "pure diamond" at the center of every human being—a spark of truth that remains untouched by external illusions and belongs entirely to God (2:52–3:09).
- **Broad Influence:** Beyond his monastic life, Merton was a social activist and a pioneer in interfaith dialogue. He is widely celebrated for his ability to communicate contemplative insights in a way that resonated far beyond the confines of his own religious tradition.