

YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

**‘Seek First The Kingdom of God
and His Righteousness’ Mt6:33**



To help us in this over the next few weeks, we will be thinking about Kingdom Praises, Kingdom Goals and Kingdom Gifts, but today we start with

KINGDOM LIVING - In This World

Put simply, the Kingdom of God is the kingly rule and reign of God, in the lives of people and nations, the recognition of the authority of God in our living and it begins with the ministry of Jesus. Verse 1 of Mark's gospel says *'The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God'*, declaring that the Kingdom of God (not of Caesar-not this world) was beginning. Jesus was beginning his reign as the King of kings and Lord of lords when only through Salvation in Him could his Kingdom be born in the lives of people and the world. Isaiah received a vision of this kingdom where, pointing towards this coming reality, the 'House of the Lord' was established and exalted as the most important place on earth.

Establishing The Lord's House

Isaiah 2:2-4

In the last days, the mountain of the LORD's house will be the highest of all — the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship. People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of Jacob's God.

There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths." For the LORD's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem. The LORD will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. They will hammer their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore.

When Jesus is Lord of all, then his love and peace will reconcile and bring together all that is broken in ourselves, our lives, our nation and this world. But today we have a choice - to make room for Jesus, surrender our lives to his reign and live under his Kingship to bring forth this vision, or continue to live by the rules of the kings of this world - power, wealth, status.

***"God's kingdom isn't a matter
of what you put in your
stomach, for goodness' sake.***

***It's what God does with your
life as he sets it right, puts it
together, and completes it
with joy. Your task is to single-
mindedly serve Christ."***

Rm14:17



In other words - it's not what we **do** on the outside but what God in *Christ* does *in us* that counts! How Christ changes our character and living into his own image.

Call to Worship

God has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done, but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. So let us worship Him as the *Supreme* influence in our living.

Jesus was once asked by the Jewish religious leaders, “When will God’s kingdom come?” Jesus responded, “God’s kingdom does not come simply *by obeying principles or by waiting for signs*. The kingdom is not discovered in one place or another, for God’s kingdom is already expanding within some of you.” Luke 17:20-21

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YPr0AD5MhQ>

SB:508

Reign in me, sovereign Lord, reign in me.
Reign in me, sovereign Lord, reign in me.
Captive my heart,
Let your Kingdom come
Establish there your throne,
Let you will be done
Reign in me, sovereign Lord, reign in me.
Reign in me, sovereign Lord, reign in me.

Opening Prayer

Spirit of God,
enlighten our hearts to the reality of
divine presence in our midst.
Let our worship be pleasing in your sight,
so that our gathering is an experience of
deep communion
with you and one another.
In the name of Jesus Christ, this is our
prayer. Amen.

Read Luke 12:

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem and as he did often, he was teaching the kingdom as he journeyed. Chapter 12 sees him highlighting things that get in the way of His kingdom coming - **Hypocrisy** - double standards, pretense, duplicity, insincerity (12:1-12) **Greed** - selfishness, materialism, self-indulgence (13-21) **Worry** - fear, anxiety, undue concern (22-34). He then gives instructions to his disciples around **Preparedness** - awareness, vigilance, alertness (35-40) **Faithfulness** - truthfulness, fidelity, devotion (41-48) going on to talk about **Consequences** - effects, outcomes, values (49-53) and finishing with **Discernment** - judgement, sensitivity, perceptiveness (54-58).

Jesus focus was single mindedly and wholeheartedly on *seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness*. While warning against the influence of anything that is not of the Kingdom, he assured them of how valuable they were (v7) encouraging them to trust and rely on the Holy Spirit (v12).

As we read through Jesus’ teaching we see how he calls us to live as he lives: V33 is a double whammy - Firstly ‘**Go sell your possessions**’. On one level this is about living a simple life with only the things we need. We see the effects of excess on our planet, in debt levels and on mental well being. Yet at a deeper level Jesus is calling us to relinquish our ownership (power).

Secondly - '**Give to those in need**'. Earlier in v16-19 we read about the greed of a farmer, storing up his crops for himself out of worry about how he will provide for himself. Jesus then immediately turns to his disciples and teaches about kingdom provision stating in v31 '**Seek the kingdom of God above all else and he will give you everything you need**'. Jesus is teaching the disciples to recognise that the wealth of the Kingdom of God is found only in Him and not in human abilities to earn, own or possess and that human value and status is found only in Him. To seek first the kingdom is to **detach** from the mindset, power and influence of this competitive, materialistic world and **attach** to the mindset, power and influence of Christ who brings freedom from these things that bind and blind us (Jn10:10) We are of course free to make our own choices, but we are never free from the consequences of our choices.

SB:148

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aICQ7fb0hEA>

MAKE WAY, MAKE WAY, FOR CHRIST THE KING

In splendour arrives

Fling wide the gates and welcome Him

Into your lives

Make way!

Make way!

For the King of kings

Make way!

Make way!

And let His kingdom in

He comes the broken hearts to heal

The prisoners to free

The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance

The blind shall see

And those who mourn with heavy hearts

Who weep and sigh

With laughter, joy and royal crown

He'll beautify

We call you now to worship Him

As Lord of all

To have no gods before Him

Their thrones must fall!

Reflection Questions:

1. How do you understand the Kingdom of God?
2. Are you influenced more by the things of the world or the things of the Kingdom?
3. Do you desire to live out the Kingdom of God?
4. How might you 'Make Way' for the Kings of kings to enter into your life more fully?
5. If you were to do this what do you think the outcome might be?

SB: 517

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Y8zP34AhuU>

Purify my heart

Let me be as gold and precious silver

Purify my heart

Let me be as gold, pure gold

Refiner's fire

My heart's one desire

Is to be holy

Set apart for You, Lord

I choose to be holy

Set apart for You, my Master

Ready to do Your will

‘Where you deposit your treasure, that is where your thoughts will turn to—and your heart will long to be there also.’ 12:34. Where we focus and invest our time, energy, money shows itself in our lives. By the truthfulness of our actions so we will be known as His disciples - good trees don’t produce bad fruit (Mt7:16-18). In effect our thinking leads to our actions, our repeated actions form habit (attachment/addiction) and habit creates our character. Are we citizens of this world or of Christ’s Kingdom? Proof is in the fruit that is seen **growing** in our lives (Gal 5:22ff) By this they will know you are my disciples (Jn13:35)

In the recent questionnaire we did, it was wonderful to see some key themes emerge about Spiritual Growth - More awareness of God, taking time to see, hear and reflect on God, being intentional in our relationship with God. These are the things that enable us to **Seek First The Kingdom**. And it’s this that will help us be ready and alert, prepared and armed against the thief (teachings of this world) that comes to steal the fruit and truth of the Kingdom from us (12:39-40) and Jesus warns about the consequences v47 warning about not being able to discern or perceive the signs of the kingdom.

KINGDOM LIVING - Seeking the kingdom first means seeking the King of the Kingdom and holding Jesus as the most important focus of our lives, recognising His authority, giving-up our power for His, letting Him live in us shaping our character, that our lives are His on this earth. First - honestly recognising our need we pray **Your Kingdom Come** to receive life and forgiveness, then we pray **Your Will be Done** to take ourselves off of the throne of glory, giving Him dominion/power to redeem our soul and rule our heart and mind.

SB: 850 - Tune Finlandia

I then shall live

as one who's been forgiven.

I'll walk with joy

to know my debts are paid.

I know my name is clear before my Father;

I am His child and I am not afraid.

So, greatly pardoned,

I'll forgive my brother;

The law of love I gladly will obey.

I then shall live

as one who's learned compassion.

I've been so loved, that I'll risk loving too.

I know how fear

builds walls instead of bridges;

I'll dare to see another's point of view.

And when relationships

demand commitment,

Then I'll be there

to care and follow through.

Your Kingdom come

around and through and in me;

Your power and glory,

let them shine through me.

Your Hallowed Name,

O may I bear with honour,

And may Your living Kingdom come in me.

The Bread of Life,

O may I share with honour,

And may You feed

a hungry world through me.

In this World Kingdom Living:

For Yours is the Kingdom, and Yours is the Power

And Yours is the Glory for ever and ever. Amen