

An aerial night view of a city, likely Tokyo, showing a dense cluster of skyscrapers and buildings illuminated with various lights. A prominent highway with multiple lanes and overpasses is visible, with traffic lights glowing. The overall scene is a vibrant, high-angle perspective of a modern urban landscape at night.

KINGDOM COME

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

PART 1

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

- Matthew 5:14-16 -

Kingdom Come - Part 1

On Saturday May 6, the coronation of King Charles III will take place. We will see His Majesty King Charles III crowned, alongside The Queen Consort. During the ceremony, there will be a moment where King Charles will be anointed with oil. The anointing is said to bestow God's grace on the monarch to become a living sign of God's mercy, justice and love in the world.

Millions, if not billions, of people around the world will watch this ceremony on TV. They will see a new king anointed and crowned king of the United Kingdom and the fourteen other Commonwealth realms. But I wonder as all these people watch this ceremony, will they know of a king who is King of kings? A King whose kingdom is the whole earth and beyond? Will they know of the true anointed one?

This year, we will be taking a journey through the Gospel of Matthew in our three-part series 'Kingdom Come.' Through Matthew's Gospel, we will see and learn how a despised tax collector had his life changed by Jesus, how he wrote his Gospel to prove that Jesus is the Messiah (anointed one), the eternal King, and to explain God's kingdom to his fellow Jews.

The true purpose of God's anointed one was to die for all people to free them from sin's oppression. Jesus came to earth to make the Kingdom of God known to us and to show us that his full kingdom will be realised at his return. My hope as we journey through 'Kingdom Come' is that we will see how Jesus is revealed as the King of kings!

As we read Matthew's Gospel, may we each listen to Matthew's clear message that Jesus is the Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords. May we each make Jesus King of our life as he calls us to be part of making his kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

Every blessing,

Rev'd Christopher Bate

Algerian Anglican



Warming up: How would you define success? Do you think success is based more on actions or attitude (character)?

Read: Matthew 5:1-12

1. What stands out to you most in this section?
2. Is Jesus asking his disciples to be 'door mats' (i.e. to let others walk over them? Why / why not?
3. As Christians, we are called to take Jesus' words seriously, because they have authority. Do you think Jesus is telling us we have to literally be hungry (v.6) to be Christians? What does this mean for how we read this passage?
4. How would you summarise Jesus' message to the crowds in your own words?
5. What does it look like to be 'persecuted' for God, and to 'rejoice and be glad' (vv.11-12)?

Read: Matthew 5:13-16

1. How important is salt in your everyday life? List its uses.
2. How would you survive without light?
3. Why do you think Jesus was encouraging his followers to be 'salt and light'?
4. In what ways do our thoughts and actions serve as a light to glorify God?

Rubber hits the road: How can you remain 'salt and light' in your walk with Jesus? As a group or by yourself, list three things you can do and/or say to be an example of salt and light.



Warming up: “Revenge is sweet”, so the saying goes. What do you think about this statement?

Read: Matthew 5:38-48

1. This passage is from the ‘Sermon on the Mount’, one of several big chunks of teaching in Matthew’s gospel. What stands out for you in this passage?
2. Why do you think Jesus was teaching the people about enemies and revenge?
3. Do you think people today still have problems with revenge and enemies?
4. In your own words, what is Jesus telling us to do when he says: “do not resist an evil person”? What does he mean when he says “turn the other cheek”?
5. Why does Jesus repeatedly say: “You have heard it was said”?
6. What justification does Jesus give for loving our enemies (v.45)?
7. Tax collectors were often unforgiving of debts and were famous for charging higher taxes than they needed to. Why does Jesus use them as an example in v.46?
8. Pagans are people who worship created things. Why does Jesus use them as an example in v.47?
9. Why does Jesus say: “Be perfect”? Why kind of life is he calling us to here and who is meant to be our example in life?

Rubber hits the road: Who is an enemy you can pray for today? Who is someone you can turn the other cheek to? Pray for those people now and in the coming week.



Warming up: Are prayer and fasting important practices in your life? Why / why not?

Read Matthew 6:5-18

1. Who are the two groups of people Jesus refers to in this passage? (Jesus addresses one of these groups as 'you').
2. Why do the hypocrites love to pray (v.5)?
3. What was the hypocrites' reward (v.5)? Do you think their reward is worth having? Why / why not?
4. How are the disciples of Jesus to pray (vv.6-13)?
5. How is the disciples' purpose for prayer different to that of the hypocrites?
6. What do you think is the reward for those who pray to their Father in private (v. 6)?
7. When the hypocrites fast, whose attention are they seeking (v.16)?
8. When disciples of Jesus fast, who should they focus on (vv.17-18)?
9. Re-read vv.8-13. In what ways does Jesus' model for prayer help us to realign our hearts' motivations with God's?
10. How has this passage helped you to express your thoughts, feelings, burdens and desires - and bring them before God in prayer?

Rubber hits the road: Our Father who is unseen (v.6 & 18) sees into our hearts: our intentions, our desires, and our motivations. In the 'Notes' section provided, reflect on the areas of your life where your motivations for your actions look more like that of the hypocrites than Jesus' disciples. Take some time to bring these places of your life before God and invite him to realign your heart with His.



Warming up: How does the future make you feel? Are you worried, afraid, hopeful, or something else?

Read Matthew 6:25-34

1. What is Jesus talking about before this passage? Where is Jesus suggesting that we should focus our attention?
2. What does Jesus say about the way that God takes care of the birds?
3. In vv.26-27, why does Jesus tell us not to worry?
4. What does Jesus say about the way that God takes care of the flowers?
5. In vv.28-32, why does Jesus tell us not to worry?
6. What word of advice does Jesus give in vv.33-34?
7. What do you think this advice means for our day-to-day life?

Read Matthew 7:24-29

1. In v.24, what does Jesus suggest makes us wise?
2. Why is it important to put the teachings of Jesus into practice?
3. Why do you think Jesus makes a link between putting his teaching into practice and building your house on solid rock?
4. Why was the crowd amazed at Jesus' teaching?

Rubber hits the road: In these four weeks of readings, Jesus has given us some very practical advice on how to live as his people in his kingdom. Take some time to write a prayer – and in that prayer ask God to help you to make three practical changes to the way you live your life. (For example: to shine the light of Jesus amongst your friends, to grow in love for those who you find hard to love, to be faithful in prayer and fasting, or to trust God with your anxieties).

“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen.””

- Matthew 6:5a -



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