

THE COMING KINGDOM

BIG IDEA

When you know the King, you seek the kingdom and when you seek the kingdom, everything changes.

SCRIPTURE

Please read Matthew 25 before your small group meeting.

OPENER

Of all the kinds of “screen time” (tv, social media, web surfing, streaming platforms, games, etc.), which consumes most of your time each week and what value do you get out of it?

QUESTIONS

1. In the sermon, there was a distinction made between the first and second advent in the Kingdom of God. The first advent is Jesus coming as a baby and how that has changed the life of every believer. Pastor Trey also spoke about the Kingdom of God to come. From scripture, discuss what the second advent looks like.
2. In the parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13), five were prepared for the Bridegroom’s return for the Bride and five assumed they would have more time to do as they wanted. But time is constantly passing, and they found themselves unprepared and locked out. Who does the groom represent? Who does the bride represent? What do the five virgins with oil and the five without oil represent? What does the oil in the lamps represent? What should you do as a result of Jesus’ teaching in this parable?
3. The parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) tells of three servants who received “money” to be responsible for while the master was away. Why did the master give a different amount of money to each servant? The third servant squandered his opportunity to serve the master. Have you ever had a similar experience where you failed Christ, by not meeting His expectations? Share.
4. The parable of the sheep and goats (Matthew 25:31-46) is based on the judgement of each person’s moral character. Does performing many “good” deeds throughout your life indicate you are a person of good moral character or is there more involved in that determination? (1 Samuel 16:7b, Matthew 7:21-23) Discuss.
5. The sermon was a reminder for each of us to examine our lives in multiple areas: Use of your time, your talents, your motives, your “stuff” and your experiences for what you do for the Kingdom. How often do you evaluate your life to ensure you are meeting His expectations? How is your evaluation carried out? Would you do it alone or with an accountability partner? Discuss.

6. In your prayer time this week, reflect on how you will stand before God and give an account of not just your trust in Jesus as Savior, but also your use of everything He has given you. Pray for wisdom on what aspects of your life you should change so that God will say “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

TAKEAWAY

- You should live like you have a King, because you do, and because He promises that if you seek His Kingdom, He will take care of everything else in your life. (Matthew 6:33)
- You have a King and...
 - therefore, your time is His and He deserves every minute of your life. As a believer, you are on the clock and time is running down.
 - that means everything you have is from Him and everything you do should be for Him.
 - that means your life should be surrendered to Him.
 - when you know that, you seek His Kingdom, and when you seek His kingdom with your heart, your talents and your time, everything changes!
- There is a King, the question...is He your King?

REFERENCES

Matthew 25:13, 21, 31

Luke 12:32-34

John 14:1-3

1 Corinthians 2:9

Ephesians 5:14-17

Philippians 2:12-18

Revelation 3:10

DIGGING DEEPER

- With the help of your small group, create a list of all the talents and gifts God has given you. Are you using all of these to make a positive impact for his Kingdom or are you squandering any of them? How could you more fully leverage what God has given you for His Kingdom?
- In Matthew 7:21-23 and 25:31-46 Jesus talks about people who think they are saved but are not due to the true condition of their heart towards Jesus. If a poor condition of our heart keeps us from a saving relationship with Christ, then it is certainly a sin (and a sin that may not be recognized at all by the sinner). Read Matthew 18:15-18, James 5:19-20, Galatians 6:1-2, and Matthew 7:1-5. Discuss how we can help people who say they are Christians but are lost in this sin.