

SERMON SERIES DISCIPLING GUIDE

Series: As It Is In Heaven • Sermon: Kingdom Come/Praying • Date: Oct. 27/28, 2018 • Speaker: Wade Paton

INTRODUCTION

Wade mentioned that the Kingdom of God can be defined as: “The range of God's effective will”. It's a time, place and experience of God's goodness and presence. We began to answer the question, “*What would it look like if the kingdom came?*” and listed off the following:

- Human need is met - no hunger – no health issues.
- Peace - no more war, enemies or relational brokenness.
- Creative genius is satisfied. Everyone using their talents and skills and leaning into their creativity.
- We are satisfied with our image, who we are and what we look like - as someone made in the image of God.
- No more fear, dread, worry or concern. No anxiety or stress.
- Family life is good - no more separations, hearts of children turning to parents. No more neglect.
- God will be with us – He will wipe away every tear. Every tear becomes “uncried”, every sad thing “becomes untrue” – God removes it.
- No more doubt, no more questions, no more “why”?

As you look over this list, what items do you find that you connect with the most? What is most needed in your life? What would you add to the list?

When Jesus came, He brought the Kingdom with Him, and as we follow Him, as Spirit-filled people of God, we too bring God's presence, goodness and Kingdom into the world around us. But, often we feel like this is not true of us; that we are not experiencing the Kingdom, or bringing it into our world like we ought to. *How would we diagnose this? What does it look like to live out this reality of being “people of the Kingdom”?*

Think about times when the Kingdom of God (“His effective will”) was an obvious reality in your life. *What was that like? What about when you brought it into others lives? Describe how that happened. What can we learn from our past experiences about bringing God's Kingdom into our own lives, and into the world around us?*

READ TOGETHER

Wade centered in on a fundamental problem that has plagued the church for some time. A faulty understanding of the Gospel. On one side you have a “Salvation Gospel” which says, “God offers you forgiveness, take it and wait for heaven.” (fire insurance). On the other side is the “Kingdom Gospel”, which says, “God offers us forgiveness, and now we can join God in being a reconciling force every day, right now.” **Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 together.** *Which “Gospel understanding” were you raised with? Which were you disciplined in? Which have you held onto up until now? Does the “Kingdom Gospel” challenge your thinking or theology today, or is it affirming your current Gospel understanding? Why do you think having a correct Gospel understanding is so important?*

So, how does the Kingdom come? **Prayer.** People humbled before Him, hearing His voice, responding to the promptings of the Spirit. Then we can see the specific invitations Jesus has for us. Take some time to silently ask God what you are to pray for in relation to the Kingdom coming in:

- **Our Inner Lives**
- **Our Relationships**
- **Our Neighborhoods, Workplaces, our City, and the World**

Share what God said. *What did He prompt you to pray for? Why do you think He prompted in that area?*

Take a good chunk of time to pray with and for one another in these areas.

Wade introduced the **7 Day Kingdom Prayer Challenge** - once a day, pray Matthew 6:10. Use that phrase as a springboard of further prayer. *How has that been going so far? Keep going this week!*