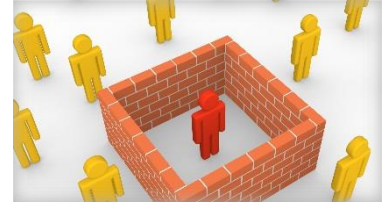


KINGDOM DOWN, NOT CULTURE UP

SERIES: JESUS IS KING | WEEK 6 | 11.22.2020

I have just this week become ever so aware of what I think is starting to show us some cracks in the pain that everyone is feeling, the hurt that everyone is feeling. It's as if there was this mindset of we're going to get through this and we're going to get to the other side of it, and there was something that I think many people have hit in the last just couple weeks, sort of a wall, and some of the stuff that's been going on inside is starting to just really explode outside of them. I've come across so many people just this week and I'm sure some of you that are watching us online this morning—good morning, thanks for joining us—that are lonely. They feel so incredibly isolated.



feeling lonely and isolated

I've been able to talk to some of our young adults and college students who are coming back from school and they're frustrated, they're about ready to just say, "Forget it all! I'm just gonna go do whatever I want whenever I want." I've talked to some of you family people that just love your families and you're so torn over what to do next. And even—this is a great week, Thanksgiving, I mean the Bible tells us to give thanks—and those who are most thankful for the ones we want to spend Thanksgiving week with, and yet there's this tension that has been brought to us that we're struggling with. The stress that I'm sensing, the constant of just being locked up in a room on a couch with a TV, popping just another beer

and drinking some more, whatever it takes, popping a couple more pills. And so many people are saying, "I'm going after this in all the wrong ways, and I'm at my limit."



There's division, there's anxiety, there is nervousness, there's discontentment, there is heightened emotional state, there's a loss of control. There's so much judgment, so many opinions, everyone thinks *they're* right and everyone else is wrong, and we're at our

limit. I would tell us—and thank you for being here this morning, thank you for watching online, you got up and you logged in and you're communicating there, thank you—I would tell us that we should have a different take on life. And yet, let's be honest, we live in this world and the stuff that's happening in this world is affecting us and impacting us and it's real.

In dark, hard times we need to go deeper, and it's rare that we can enter into dark, hard times as a collective unit. It seems like most of us are in and out of those times, but we're in a moment where really the whole world finds themselves there. If we're going to go deeper in dark, hard times, how are we going to go deeper? We're going to go deeper in something else—inside of ourselves, inside of things that are going to get us outside of ourselves, or in our walk with God. And I know you have shown up here, you have jumped online today because you know, even though the pain you're feeling, you know that He knows and you want to go deeper with Him.

Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives
do I give to you. Let
not your hearts be
troubled, neither let
them be afraid.

✦ JOHN 14:27 (ESV)

That word deeper is very elusive. What's that mean to go deeper with Him? And here at Calvary we're constantly saying we need to be a people of The Book so we know what He's saying to us, and we need to be a people of prayer. We need to be going to Him. And yet, in a moment like this it's like, *Okay, I am trying to but I don't know what to say; I don't know how to say it.* And Jesus, Matthew Chapter 6, having spent time with His disciples He has some warnings for them and then they're like, "How do we pray?" And He says, "Here, when you pray,

KINGDOM DOWN, NOT CULTURE UP

SERIES: JESUS IS KING | WEEK 6 | 11.22.2020

I want you to pray like this." His warnings to them were like hey, don't be like the hypocrites who go out there and stand in public and pray out loud. Hey listen, go into that private place. This is what He says in Matthew 6, go into that private place, get alone with God, be with Him. And then He says listen, don't go through a bunch of repetitious prayers repeating lines, one-liners, over and over. And you're going, "But I'm not sure what to say and how to say it."

⁵ "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

And so Jesus in Matthew Chapter 6 prays something that we have called "The Lord's Prayer." He says this is how *you* ought to pray—it's not how He prays, it's how you ought to pray—and He says when you pray I want you to pray like this. We're gonna put that prayer on the screen.

***⁹ "Pray then like this:
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread, ¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."***

– MATTHEW 6:5-13 (ESV)

I believe many of you if not all of you are very familiar with this. In fact, His warning to not to make it just repetitious repeating is to be taken even as we read this prayer this morning. The words of this prayer instruct us how to pray and I believe that as we just take each of these phrases there very simply and very quickly today, within each of these phrases there are some answers to the pain that you're feeling. There are some places here where you can go very deep with God, meditating and focusing in on this specific aspect of what God's doing and sharing with you here. So I'm just going to walk you through it.

He starts out by saying, "*Our Father*" – for those listening on when Jesus said this, this was new. Throughout the entire Old Testament of the Bible there is a constant focus in on God as the Father of the nation of Israel as a whole, but it was never as God the Father personally. And here when Jesus says, "*Our Father*," He is bringing to us a dimension that maybe we had not heard before, maybe we had not drilled down on before, that would have shocked them in that time and it's something that needs to awaken us in this time. God responds to our prayer because He is a loving Father. And so here we cry out Abba Father, Daddy, Papa, and because He is a loving Father, when we say Father we feel that closeness, we feel that personal relationship.



And remember where He's at – He's located: "*Our Father in heaven.*" We get what's going on in this earth and now we get to go beyond that. We can only share the same stuff that we're frustrated at. When I was going through that long list at the beginning of our time here and sharing what we're feeling

KINGDOM DOWN, NOT CULTURE UP

SERIES: JESUS IS KING | WEEK 6 | 11.22.2020

right now, you're going, "Yes, but I want to get beyond that. I want something more. I want to go deeper." And I get to speak to God who is in Heaven, our Father God who loves me, who cares for me, who cares for you, and He wants to have this personal relationship. But here's what's fascinating, the next words are, "*hallowed be your name,*" or "holy is your name," or defined: You are separate. You are holy God. You are beyond. You are awesome. You are magnificent. You are powerful. You are holy other. So now I don't merely have One who can relate with me, but I have One who has the power and the source and the strength to be able to work within what's going on in my life. So when I say, "Our Father – Papa, Dad – in Heaven, You're located where I want to be, holy is your name."

And then we read these words: "*Your kingdom come, your will be done,*" – right here – "*on earth as it is in heaven.*" I want you, if you're taking notes, if you're reviewing this later, I want you to stick this thought, these words into your heart and mind. This will help each one of us like nothing else I'll say here today. Remember the words, "*Your kingdom come, your will be done.*" Here's what we want: We want Kingdom down, not culture up. Culture's how we do things on this earth. Culture is what we're

KINGDOM DOWN NOT CULTURE UP

being fed every day. Culture is what we're being brainwashed with constantly. It's why we feel this tension that we're feeling right now. But that's never what Kingdom wants. Kingdom down, not culture up. And when we pray this prayer, when we go before our Father in Heaven who is holy, powerful, almighty, that refocuses me and it's not a "me" prayer. Remember what it says, "Our Father" – God, Daddy, I need You. You're powerful. It's not a me prayer, it's me aligning with how things are [in Heaven], your will be done as it is in Heaven. What is the settled will of all eternity of God Himself of Heaven, not of what we're being told from culture up—you're supposed to talk about this, you're not supposed to say this, you're supposed to post this, here's the words you're allowed to use, here's the words you're not allowed to use. That's culture up. That's driving us crazy! But what's your settled will in Heaven. Kingdom down, not culture up. Take the pressure off of yourself today. Let Him run your life. He's got this. He wants to have it. He's got it all settled in Heaven. This is not my home!

THIS.IS.NOT.MY.HOME!

I am not in charge. You are not in charge. [APPLAUSE] Culture doesn't get to dictate it. Kingdom down, not culture up. You don't get to tell me what I get to say, what I get to do, what I get to believe because Heaven does. [AMEN! FROM AUDIENCE / APPLAUSE] If we can somehow drill this into the head and believe this, this is what's going to happen—we're going to start seeing this moment not as this moment of grinding hurt and pain, but rather this moment as a moment of blessing. I remember that old song – *and the things of this earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.*^A That all of a sudden because this [things of earth] is such a mess and I realize this is so fouled I start saying [POINTING UP]. "I want that!"

I had a breakfast with a gentleman in our church this week and he said something to me and I was like, "Oh, that's so good." He put a focus on a verse that was different than the focus I had ever put on that verse. He was talking about 1st Chronicles Chapter 12, verse 32:

³² Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs, and all their kinsmen under their command.

– 1 CHRONICLES 12:32 (ESV)

KINGDOM DOWN, NOT CULTURE UP

SERIES: JESUS IS KING | WEEK 6 | 11.22.2020

You may have heard, or maybe you didn't, I mean, this is like it's a very specific verse but it talks about the men of Issachar. You ever heard of that before? He talked about the men of Issachar and he said this to me, I thought it was fascinating. He said in that time it is listing out all these different tribes and these divisions and what they had to do and what they were involved in. And he says, like, these men, these guys were men of war; these people were the ones that carried the swords; these were the ones that go wading into the war; these were planning the war. And then he says the men of Issachar, they knew their times and knew what to do with them. Oooh. He says, "We need to know our times today."

We live in a moment, a blessing, and yet everyone culture up is telling this is a moment of cursing, this is a moment of fear. Do you know where fear is from? Not from God, is it? And if we allow Satan into

For God
has not given us
a spirit of fear and timidity,
but of power, love, and
self-discipline.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7 (NLT)

our church and into our home and into our thinking with fear, he's got us for good. And that's why I want to keep on saying to us faith not fear. Hey listen, that doesn't mean we're not going to be smart and not trying to wash our hands and wear masks, that's why we're doing that in here right now. It's why we're six-foot apart or whatever a foot apart, I get it, that's fine, but we are not going to allow fear to rule us because fear is never from God.

The book of Luke says in the end times men's hearts will be failing them for fear after what is to come.¹ And so when we say, "*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,*" it resets us, it helps us align to – it's Him. We want so bad to go back to this time last year. I get it. I do, too. We want so bad to have this moment resolved into everything's okay again. But a year ago I was praying with many of you, "God, help us somehow get our attention back on You. God, we are so just embroiled in the things of this earth and are running and are doing and all this kind of stuff." And all of a sudden everything came to a stop, and God says I have a moment here that if you'll leverage it. All of a sudden the things of this earth look really, really bad. It makes it really easy to say, "I'm going to put my attention on Heaven."

Hey listen, if you don't know Jesus, you see, what I don't want to do here is I don't want to bring you just like hey here's a little bit of Life Skills 101, a little bit better life, a little happier life, hey, a way to just relieve a little bit of pressure this morning. I want you to just be able to come to Jesus and have Him transform everything in your life. You come to Him saying, "I'm a sinner. I want my life to be in your hands. I want to believe that You died and gave your life for me."

And listen to these words: "*Give us this day our daily bread.*" The word bread was a metaphor for everything in this life that we need. And what He's saying here is give me everything that I need to survive today. It's saying God – today – without You I have nothing. I am not in control, You are. We said that cerebrally, we said that with our minds but we didn't believe it. But today something's beginning to change in us going God, I don't have control over this. I'm not sure that even if we can fix this that there isn't some boomerang coming right on the backside of it. This is working for the powers of darkness. Why not? And it causes us the sooner we can say, "God, You've got this. I trust You today for everything I have."

¹ Luke 21:25-28 (ESV) – Context is prior to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ [Jesus speaking]: "*And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.*"

KINGDOM DOWN, NOT CULTURE UP

SERIES: JESUS IS KING | WEEK 6 | 11.22.2020

But, you know, our effort to stockpile for the future, remember the Israelites with manna? You know, you couldn't collect a little bit more than a day's worth because you're like, "Uh, I better save this stuff up." And you remember the worms got in it and it rotted? God says just get enough for today, I will provide for you today. And God is calling us to say, "Will you trust in Me for today?" Our efforts to stock up and to save up are a waste of time. Did you hear toilet paper's gone again? What the heck!



But you know what, the reality is, I mean, some of us have come to a place where we're depending on our stocks. Hey, I hear yesterday's almost hitting 30,000. Whoa! Wow! But what's going to happen a week from now when they're hitting 12,000? Or when they're wiped out? *Well, that can't happen.* Well, we never thought what we're dealing with today could happen. I think something will save me. I mean a lot of people think their toilet paper is going to save them. A lot of people think their stocks are going to save them. God, meet my needs today. I trust You for my needs today. I have a daily need to focus in on You.



And by the way, by His grace He has provided for you today, and He wants to use you and me as a conduit of His grace to provide for others. I'm going to give you an opportunity to do that at the end of this service today where we're going to collect coats over the next couple weeks, we're going to collect cans for people that are cold in the City of Philadelphia that we're going to get to them next week. Because all of a sudden we realize God's going to use me as a conduit because now I'm saying no, I'm not going to start saving up for myself, I'm not going to store up for that, I'm going to trust God to provide for today and I'm going to help people today. By the way, this, it doesn't say *my* daily bread, it says *our* daily bread, *"Give us this day our daily bread."* He's providing for us. Listen, the more I think I am in control the more I'm going to be fearful.

Two last things, *"and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."* Forgive, forgive me, God. I forgive others. I want you to hear this, I want us to think about this, I don't want us to let go of this. Never have I seen a time where we're turning on each other like this in our families, in our jobs, in our homes, in our church. It's just this pressure that we find ourselves under is a constant thing that pits people against people. And everything everyone says brings about this heightened emotional alert that causes fireworks to go off.

For a people that are forgiven by God, Jesus says as we're praying we need to say God, You forgave me – I forgive you. And I've got to be there. And he says, when you pray this—this is why Jesus didn't pray this prayer, this wasn't something that Jesus would have to pray, He's perfect, He's sinless—but for us, we've been forgiven a lot, we need to forgive others. This is a powerful statement. We recognize that we have received grace because we desperately needed grace, and because He gave us that grace we give that grace.

He ends up by saying, *"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."* And I want to end with these words. James 1:13 says:

¹³ *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God,"*

— God doesn't tempt you —

for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

– JAMES 1:13 (ESV)

KINGDOM DOWN, NOT CULTURE UP

SERIES: JESUS IS KING | WEEK 6 | 11.22.2020

And so when I read these words, "lead us not into temptation," this is a cry for protection. I recognize my frailty. I recognize my sinfulness. I beg you—recognize your frailty, recognize your sinfulness. And when you cry lead me not into temptation, "God, don't let me mess this up!" The book of 2nd Thessalonians, I believe it's the second chapter says that in the end times, here we are again, the men's hearts failing them for fear, here it says there's going to be a great falling away² and we can see how that'll happen. And I would say, "God, don't let that happen to me. I don't want to be in that mode. I want to keep my eyes on You. I want Heaven to be my home. I want to depend on You every day for everything. Don't – God, don't let me sin against You."

My hope is that you'll take one of these phrases, you'll build it deeply into yourself, that it'll inform your day, your week. Would you stand up with me? I'd love to – together – read this prayer one more time out loud, hopefully with some new meaning that you didn't have before now. Would you read it with me?

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

– MATTHEW 6:9-13 (ESV)

Scripture quotations marked (ESV) were taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation. Copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation.

Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (AMP) were taken from the Amplified Bible. Copyright © 2015 by The Lockman Foundation, La Habra, CA 90631. All rights reserved.

Accessed on Biblegateway.com

WATCH OR LISTEN

Calvary Fellowship Website: <https://www.cfdowningtown.com/watch>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/vl6o0ol43WQ>

SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/cfdowningtown/kingdom-down-not-culture-up-112220>

COPYRIGHT © 2020 – LEE WIGGINS – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

GRAPHICS/IMAGE CREDITS: Images appearing in this transcript were obtained from DuckDuckGo image searches (sources attributed in parentheses): Pg 1–isolated (hea-employment.com), chaos (ouracc.org), peace (heartofthekingsdaughter.com); Pg 2–We are beloved children (concept from singleness.com; background photo from goodfreephotos.com); Pg 5– sold out (dumpaday.com), stock market crash (youtube.com). Additional sources: CF logo in the footer is from the CFD website; all other graphics were created by the transcriber.

KEYWORDS: pray, trust, focus, kingdom, culture

² 2 Thessalonians 2:3 (AMP): *Let no one in any way deceive or entrap you, for that day will not come unless the apostasy comes first [that is, the great rebellion, the abandonment of the faith by professed Christians], and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction [the Antichrist, the one who is destined to be destroyed].*

KINGDOM DOWN, NOT CULTURE UP

SERIES: JESUS IS KING | WEEK 6 | 11.22.2020

END NOTES

^A Lyrics obtained from https://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Turn_Your_Eyes_upon_Jesus/

TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS

O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free!

Refrain:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

Through death into life everlasting
He passed, and we follow Him there;
O'er us sin no more hath dominion—
For more than conqu'rors we are!

Refrain

His Word shall not fail you—He promised;
Believe Him, and all will be well:
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell!

— HELEN H. LEMMEL, 1922 © PUBLIC DOMAIN