

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

TODAY'S VERSES

Introduction

A meek person is not a weak person, the word *meek* is the Greek word which means a tamed wild animal. When we truly own up to our sin, only then do we become free.

Discussion

When are the times in your life when you have felt most free?

Explanation

Have you ever experienced a new kind of "administration"?

Was it a good or bad experience?

Before this week's sermon, what did the phrase "Kingdom of God" mean to you?

Does it mean something different now?

Does the stereotypical "born again" phrase apply to your redemption story?

Why or why not?

How does realizing we are "poor in spirit" contrast with our culture's views of self?

Application

 - Read 2 Corinthians 7:10

What is the difference between self-pity and true repentance?

Why is it so difficult for us to accept that the problem (sin) resides in us?

What keeps us from despairing over our condition?

Mission

How can we show others what it means to be "poor in spirit," "mournful" over sin, and "meek" in a loving way?

Homework

 - Read Psalm 63

What kinds of things do you crave/desire?



SERMON

On The Mount





KINGDOM OF GOD

Matthew 5:3-5 *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”*

Old Testament

God rules in sovereignty over all His works as King. He desires His rule to be acknowledged in a bond or relationship of love, loyalty, spirit, and trust; this brings about all the we see involving covenant in the Old Testament.

In Genesis God creates man in His own image.

- The fact that mankind is male and female prepares us for the command to be fruitful
- The fact that mankind is the divine image prepares us for the command to rule over the creatures.
- The fact that mankind is male and female in itself has nothing to do with the divine image.
- Man is set in the middle of creation as God’s image, man was to be the evidence that God is the Lord of creation.

Adam begins to rule the world under God by naming everything created on the earth just as God ruled by naming everything created in the heavens.

When Abraham’s family becomes a nation, God initiates with them the “Sinai covenant” as a means for the people being rightly related to God, to each other as God’s true humanity, and to the creation as His stewards. The covenant is the means for establishing His kingdom.

When the people failed to abide by the covenant, the prophets and the wise men were sent by God to call the people back to the covenant, the terms of God’s rule. Zephaniah, as one example, based his warnings on the covenant as found in Deuteronomy (cp. Zeph. 1:2 and Deut. 32:22; Zeph. 1:3 and Deut. 28:21; Zeph. 1:4–6 and Deut. 28:45; Zeph. 1:8–13 and Deut. 28:45; Zeph. 1:13 and Deut. 28:30, 39; Zeph. 1:15 and Deut. 28:53, 55, 57). *Zephaniah 2:11* *“The nations on every shore will worship him, every one in its own land;”* Zephaniah’s theology can be summed up by the theme, kingdom through covenant.



New Testament

In the New Testament the fullest revelation of God’s divine rule is in the person of Jesus Christ.

- His birth was heralded as the birth of a king (Luke 1:32–33).
- The ministry of John the Baptist prepared for the coming of God’s kingdom (Matt. 3:2).
- The crucifixion was perceived as the death of a king (Mark 15:26–32).
- Jesus preached that God’s kingdom was at hand (Matthew 11:12).
- God’s kingdom was manifested in the church.
- Jesus commissioned the making of disciples on the basis of His kingly authority (Matthew. 28:18–20).
- Peter’s sermon at Pentecost underscored that a descendent of David would occupy David’s throne forever, a promise fulfilled in the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:30–32).
- Believers are transferred from the dominion of darkness into the kingdom of the Son of God (Colossians 1:13).

The kingdom of God encompasses the past, present, and future. The kingdom of God is “already” present but “not yet” fully completed, both a present and future reality. The kingdom was inaugurated in the incarnation, life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. God is now manifesting His authoritative rule in the lives of His people. God’s kingdom, however, awaits its complete realization while His people still endure sufferings and tribulations. Kingdom citizens currently dwell alongside inhabitants of the kingdom of darkness; though God will eventually dispel all darkness. The final inheritance of the citizens of God’s kingdom is yet to be fully realized, the resurrection body for life in the kingdom is a blessing awaiting culmination.

The kingdom of God is the work of God, not produced by human ingenuity. God brought it into the world through Christ, and it presently works through the church. The church preaches the kingdom of God and anticipates the eventual consummation.

EKIDS! SPRING MARKET

April 12th, 9-3pm
Vendor Applications available.

YOUTH PARENT MEETING

7th-12th grade
Next Sunday at 12:20pm in Classroom

ELEMENT U

A six week course on Apologetics
Starts March 5th at 6:30pm

SEE ALL UPCOMING
ACTIVITIES
ourelement.org/events

