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The Gospel According to Matthew

The Authority and Power of the King – the Kingdom is Among us

July 29, 2018

Sermon Text: Matthew 8

Scripture Reading: Daniel 2:31-45

The most important thing to do in studying your Bible, as we have said many times, is to take a step back, slow down, and survey the lay of the landscape. Look at the big picture. What is the primary message here? What is the theme Matthew is presenting us with and how then does this new chapter relate to that theme?

So many people immediately jump into the smaller details of the text and debate about them, then walk away thinking they have properly understood what the scripture is saying

– but they don't. And as a result, people can eventually start thinking – whether they really admit it or not – that the Bible is irrelevant. If you are bored with God's Word it is because YOU aren't getting it! Here you are, wandering around in the middle of a forest of verses, never seeing the overall drone view of the forest itself. Clueless. Forest? What's that?

So let's review what Matthew's primary message is and in fact what the fundamental theme of the entire Bible is. Here it is – ready?

The King and the Kingdom. The Kingdom of God. Or, we might use another title for the same thing – Christ and the coming New Creation, the New Heavens and Earth, and the King and citizens who rule and inhabit it.

Did you hear what we just read in Daniel 2? Think about how you *think* in regard to this world and your place in it and other people and the nations and countries. A person's natural

worldview is that *this is it. This is life. You are born and then you die. The next generation comes in and the world just keeps keeping on.*
That is wrong.

Dan 2:44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,

The King is coming again. He has come and is present even now in His people and in that sense His kingdom is now – but not yet. Not in its fullness. We use the word “consummation” – “The point at which something is complete or finalized.” A marriage. A sale. Or in this case, the full establishment of the kingdom of God.

Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."

This is really the master theme of the Bible. It is God’s ultimate purpose – the restoration of all things, all accomplished by and through Christ. And this is Matthew’s theme – the King and the Kingdom of God.

Mat 2:1-2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, (2) saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Mat 2:6 "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

Mat 3:1-2 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, (2) "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Mat 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

And then of course we have spent time looking at the Sermon on the Mount in chapters 5-7 in which Jesus opens His address with the Beatitudes. Blessed are those who are the people of the kingdom of heaven.

But then there is another thread – another kingdom. The kingdom of this world. The kingdom of the devil. It opposes the coming of the kingdom of God and the King at every turn. That is why Jesus spends so much time in the Sermon on the Mount exposing the Pharisees. It is why they will

increasingly grow to hate Him. Kingdoms in conflict, you see. And that is what WE must believe and see and be wise about:

Eph 6:11-13 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

With this review and background then, listen as I read chapter 8 and see if you can understand how everything here is continuing to teach us about the Kingdom of God and the King:

Healing the Leper

Mat 8:1-34 When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. (2) And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." (3) And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. (4) And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses

commanded, for a proof to them."

The Centurion's Faith

(5) When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, (6) "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." (7) And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." (8) But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. (9) For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." (10) When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. (11) I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, (12) while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (13) And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law

(14) And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying

sick with a fever. (15) He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him.

Jesus Casts Out Demons and Heals

(16) That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. (17) This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

Following Christ

(18) Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. (19) And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." (20) And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." (21) Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." (22) And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."

The Winds and Waves Obey Him

(23) And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. (24) And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. (25) And they went and woke

him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." (26) And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. (27) And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

Jesus' Authority Over the Demons

(28) And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. (29) And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" (30) Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them. (31) And the demons begged him, saying, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs." (32) And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters. (33) The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. (34) And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.

What do we see? What is the common thread? It is this –

Jesus of Nazareth is the King. As such, He comes with authority and power. God's authority and power. He is King over:

- **Disease (as prophesied)**
- **His power extends throughout the universe and over all nations**
- **Jesus is King over the demons. Satan's kingdom cannot stand before Him**
- **Jesus is Creator. He holds all things together so that even the creation itself obeys His commands**
- **Many people, even seeing with their own eyes the King's authority and power, fear Him and want Him to just go away**

In the very next chapter the King will even pronounce forgiveness of sins.

This, you see, evidences the fact that the kingdom of God has invaded the kingdom of the devil. And this invasion is:

- Judgment upon the King's enemies
- Redemptive in that the King removes all aspects of the curse. The devil and demons, disease, all enemies.

Rev 21:1-4 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (4) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

The good news of the gospel is the good news of the kingdom of God. It is the pronouncement that in Jesus Christ God is setting all things right, that the way into that New heavens and earth has been fully provided in Christ to all who simply believe in Him.

THIS is the message, the gospel, that ALL of us have been given to preach. It is the message the Apostles preached. It is the message the church is commissioned to preach.

Luk 9:60 And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Act 20:25 And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again.

Act 28:30-31 He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, (31) proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

Look, THIS is what Paul got a glimpse of –

2Co 12:2-4 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. (3) And I know that this man was caught up into paradise--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- (4) and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.

This kingdom is what Jesus has been preparing for us all these centuries-

Joh 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Now, this is enough to digest for now but I am going to end with this challenge –

Why in the world are you loving this present world and acting as if THIS is your life?

If that shoe fits, then put it on. If it doesn't, then excellent!

It is very, very grievous to me as your pastor when I hear that some of my flock are choosing this world and living in rebellion against the Lord, walking in sin just like the worldlings around us. It tells me that you still do not know the Lord and worse, that you are mocking Him. Don't be fooled – God is NEVER mocked.

All of us have been together in this church for many years. Some of you for your entire lives. We have grown in Christ, we have heard His Word, we have spent hours and hours and weeks and months hearing about the New Creation coming. We have heard about the coming Day of Judgment and how fearsome it will be for those outside of Christ.

So let me put this scripture to any of you here today who are in love with this world, walking in sin, wanting to be just like the wicked around you -

Heb 10:26-31 For if we go on sinning

deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, (27) but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. (28) Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. (29) How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? (30) For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." (31) It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.