

Thursday, 2/23

As Jesus enters Jerusalem the power struggle reaches a fever-pitch. What is His authority? How is it challenged then? Now? How do you?

Read **Matthew 21:1-46**.

Discuss the irony of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Sing the song "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling."

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down.
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art
Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.
2. Come Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee with thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing glory in thy perfect love.
3. Finish then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Pray for those in our city who need healing (physical, spiritual, emotional).

Pray that God would use us as healing agents for His kingdom.

Friday, 2/24

Join folks from CTR for Friday morning prayer starting at **6:30 am** each Friday morning. It is held at Payson Park Evangelical Church on Ocean Ave.

Read **Matthew 22:1-45**.

Meditate on how Jesus is both Son and Lord and how He has kept all the commandments perfectly for His people's righteousness.

Pray : "Lord, our God, we worship You and glorify Your name. There is none like You in all the earth." *Take a few moments and thank Him specifically.*

Saturday, 2/25

Prepare for worship tomorrow by not only reviewing the following devotional materials, but also by preparing what you can today to avoid rushing tomorrow.

Read **Matthew 23:1-39**.

Meditate on Jesus' words of warning followed by, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." *How can we have that blessing and not woe?*

Pray for the worship service tomorrow. Ask the Father to meet with His people and allow us to worship Him in Spirit and Truth. Ask Him to bring many of your friends and neighbors to the service and to allow you to reach out to them with the wonder of the gospel



SIGNS AND THE SON

Matthew 16:1-20

Sermon notes from 2/19/06

Rev. Douglas D. Warren
See updated devotional within

Text

The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. ² He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' ³ and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. ⁴ A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Jesus then left them and went away.

⁵ When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. ⁶ "Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ⁷ They discussed this among themselves and said, "It is because we didn't bring any bread." ⁸ Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? ⁹ Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? ¹⁰ Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? ¹¹ How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ¹² Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**"

¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Message

I. The Way Spiritual Eyes Work

II. Jesus' Identity as the King Is Central to the Gospel.

III. Jesus' Kingdom and the Church

Application

Please consider the following, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you:

1. What is the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees?
2. Why is Jesus' identity central to Christianity?
3. What does faith in Jesus as the Son of God look like in your life?

Taking Gathered Worship Home—Family and Individual Devotions

This is the last full week before Lent. Our reading in the Gospel According to Matthew takes us from just after the transfiguration, to Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem, to the end of the last narrative section before His passion. As we look together at God's Word, let us pray together that we would not be just hearers of it, but doers as well. Let us follow Christ our King.

Sunday, 2/19

Sunday is uniquely "the Lord's Day" as we celebrate His resurrection each week. We encourage you to use the bulk of this Sunday immersing yourself in God's Word.

Read the context for this morning's sermon: **Matthew 14:1-17:27**.

Discuss the sermon. How is this narrative section similar and different from the three previous narrative sections (4:12-25; 8-9; 11-12)?

Sing one of the songs from the worship service today.

Pray: "Heavenly Father, thank You for this day in which we can worship You together in community. Thank you for the way You are redeeming Your creation. Thank You for being the Living God, powerful to save. Help us worship and adore You faithfully."

Go to a home fellowship group. If not this evening, find one meeting at another time during the week and attend that.

Monday, 2/20

This is the day that the Lord has made; He is King over all that happens. Let us look to Him in faith and rejoice and be glad in it.

Read **Matthew 18:10-35**.

Meditate on the amazing kingdom reality, "*Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.*"

Pray this reality would continue to make us welcoming to the people that He brings into our lives. Pray that we would have child-like faith, trusting Him to be faithful to His promises. Ask Him to empower and embolden us as a community of faith to take the gospel in word and deed to our neighbors, family, and friends, that His name might be greatly praised throughout the Portland area.

Tuesday, 2/21

Jesus said a lot of hard things. Today we will look at two difficult passages sandwiching a tender account of His blessing children. How do they go together?

Read **Matthew 19:1-30**.

Discuss why Jesus was so hard on the rich young man.

Sing the song "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say."

See the lyrics in the insert from Sunday's order of worship.

Pray for people you know who do not know Jesus. Be specific. Pray for them by name. Ask the Father to open their eyes and bring them to faith in Christ. Ask Him to use you in doing so.

Wednesday, 2/22

We all have needs. In today's passage we see the gospel radically restating our needs. How does the mercy of Christ provide everything for us?

Read **Matthew 20:1-34**.

Meditate on the blind men's cry, "*Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!*"

Pray: "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us! Teach us our neediness. Show us Your grace. Help us to see and know that You alone are all we need. Transform our hearts that we might be satisfied in You and with nothing else. Mold us and shape us as instruments in Your hands to bring that gospel reality into the lives of those around us."

Scripture Memory for the Week

"Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

—Matthew 20:25-28