

Friday, 5/5

Come to the prayer meeting **this morning at 6:30.**

Read **Acts 8:1-25.** How did the gospel go out?

Feast and rejoice for Christ is extending His kingdom throughout all the world even here in Northern New England.

Pray for your neighbors whose hearts are like Simon the sorcerer's heart was.

Pray for their repentance. Pray that God will use you to bring them into His kingdom to the honor and praise of His name.

Sing the song *I Will Glory in My Redeemer.*⁴

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| <p>1. I will glory in my Redeemer
Whose priceless blood has ransomed me.
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails
And hung Him on that judgment tree.
I will glory in my Redeemer
Who crushed the power of sin and death;
My only Savior before the holy Judge,
The Lamb Who is my righteousness,
The Lamb Who is my righteousness.</p> | <p>2. I will glory in my Redeemer
My life He bought, my love He owns.
I have no longings for another
I'm satisfied in Him alone.
I will glory in my Redeemer
His faithfulness, my standing place
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me
My feet are firm, held by His grace,
My feet are firm, held by His grace.</p> |
| <p>3. I will glory in my Redeemer
Who carries me on eagle's wings.
He crowns my life with lovingkindness
His triumph song I'll ever sing.
I will glory in my Redeemer</p> | <p>Who waits for me at gates of gold
And when He calls me it will be paradise
His face forever to behold,
His face forever to behold.</p> |

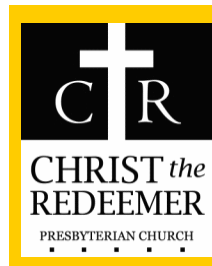
Saturday, 5/6

Read tomorrow's sermon passage **Ephesians 2:19-22.**

Prepare today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

Sing the song *Shout to the Lord.*

Pray for God's glory to be more and more manifested in the greater Portland area. Pray that He will use us to extend His grace as we celebrate it together.



THE KING'S EXPANDING KINGDOM

Sermon notes from 4/30/06

Matthew 28:16-20

Rev. Douglas Warren

Text

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Message

I. The King's Compassion Is Compelling.

II. The King's Authority Is Absolute.

III. The King's Command Is Comprehensive.

IV. The King's Dominion Is Definite.

Application

Please consider the following questions as you seek the Holy Spirit's direction from this sermon:

1. Why should I obey Christ's commands?
2. What has Jesus commanded us to do? How does that relate to His summary of the moral law (to love God and our neighbor)?
3. What excuses do I use to justify my disobedience to His commands?

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² Barocha music by Michael Card. Used by permission.

³ See the website for an explanation of feasting in response to the gospel www.MainePCA.org.

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Taking Gathered Worship Home—Family and Individual Devotions

Jesus is the reigning King of Kings. All authority on heaven and earth has been given to Him and with that power to sovereignly command He tells us to make disciples throughout all the earth. He didn't stutter; He didn't suggest it; He didn't stutter; He told us to go. Why do we stand about gawking? We are afraid and we doubt Him. This is nothing new. What we need is nothing less than the gospel—the good news that He really is the King so we can trust Him and so do really scary stuff, like obey Him.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Please pray that we as a community of faith will learn His ways and walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday, 4/30 Read today's passage: **Matthew 28:16-20**. How does Christ's authority affect your ability to obey His command?

Discuss your experience with communion. Why did you participate or not? How did that connect with the sermon? With the songs? With the prayers?

Sing the song *Shout to the Lord*.¹

My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord there is none like You,
All of my days, I want to praise,
The wonders of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength.
Let every breath, all that I am,
Never cease to worship You.
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You.

Shout to the Lord
All the earth let us sing,
Power and majesty praise to the King.
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar,
At the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands.
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.
(Repeat all)
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

Pray for God to convince us that nothing compares to the promise we have in Christ. Ask Him to empower us to extend His grace throughout the world.

Monday, 5/1 Read **Daniel 7:1-28**. God promised that while His people would endure much from four kingdoms, He would eventually establish His kingdom. Who would be given authority in that kingdom? What else was He given?

Rejoice for Christ has established His eternal kingdom.

Pray for your neighbors, peers, friends & family asking God to save them.

Extend His grace to someone you know today. Lovingly and thoughtfully express to them in word and deed the grace Christ has lavished upon you.

Tuesday, 5/2 Read **Colossians 1:15-23** and consider how Christ's authority over all creation gives us confidence to obey Him.

Meditate on this reality—Christ is supreme over everything!

Sing the song *Shout to the Lord*.

Pray, "Creator God, all this world declares Your glory. We know that You are even now redeeming this creation to receive the fullness of Your glory dwelling with Your redeemed people. Use us to redeem this place, to show these people the glory of Your name.

Wednesday, 5/3 Read **John 14:1-31**. How do we love Christ? What will characterize His people? What is the role of His Spirit?

Meditate on Jesus' promise "I will not leave you as orphans."

Rejoice if you have been adopted by God's through Christ's sacrifice.

Pray, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,"

Ask God to use you in making His name hallowed (declared holy) among your family and friends.
"Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Praise God for beginning His kingdom on earth. Ask Him to extend it today.

"Give us today our daily bread."

Thank God for all His provision for you. Ask Him for the things you need..

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Ask God to make us so aware of how much He has forgiven us that we would be forgiving also.

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Praise Christ for delivering us from sin and death and ask Him to continue to rescue us daily.

Thursday, 5/4 Read **Acts 1:6-11**. What does Jesus say we are supposed to be? How is Christ's return supposed to motivate us?

Sing *The Blessing or Barocha from Numbers*.²

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make His face shine upon you
And give you peace
And give you peace
And give you peace, forever

The Lord be gracious to you
The Lord turn His face towards you
And give you peace
And give you peace
And give you peace, forever.

Feast in celebration of Christ's great grace in freeing us from sin and death.³

Pray, "Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son to bless us. Help us to be a blessing to others as well. Jesus, we know that You are coming back. Forgive us for the ways we disobey Your commands. Empower us and fill us with Your Spirit that we might boldly proclaim You to all those around us. Holy Spirit, thank You for being with us. Forgive us for not listening to Your prompting and ignoring Your presence. Enable us more and more to live for Christ and to demonstrate the love for Him that You are building in us. Make us long for the new heavens and new earth. Amen."