

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

What Do You Wish?

Matthew 20:17-34

Wishing wells

Wishing upon a star

It's a wonderful life: "I wish I had a million dollars," followed by "Hot dog!"

We tell our kids not to wish, but to ask (James 4:3)

But often I realize I catch myself saying it!

Genie granting 3 wishes, what would it be?

Ask for more wishes!

What do you really want most?

I think if we were to be honest about them,

it'd really reveal our motives, our struggles, and our priorities...

[Pray]

:17-19

Took them aside on the road...

Many following, took the 12 aside

"We have to talk"

Confirms they're going to Jerusalem for the Passover

Tells them exactly what's going to happen when they get there

Not the typical week to expect normally or with everything that's happened in the three years of ministry

Betrayed

You can't be betrayed unless they were close

Betrayers are always the ones close maybe even the ones you least expect

ii. "And still is he betrayed! If the gospel dies in England, write on its tomb, 'Betrayed.' If

our churches lose their holy influence among men, write on them, 'Betrayed.' What care we for infidels? What care we for those who curse and blaspheme? They cannot hurt the Christ. His wounds are those which he receives in the house of his friend." (Spurgeon)

Lord Lord...we did XYZ in your name... betrayers

Remember what's next - the Triumphal Entry

What everyone thought, what everyone expected

Even those closest to him, the 12

Establishing the kingdom

All eyes on the earthly kingdom

No eyes, or ears, for the spiritual things

Fleshly ears do not hear spiritual things

Matthew 11:20-25 NKJV - Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. "But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. "And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. "But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you." At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from [the] wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.

2 Timothy 4:1-4 NKJV - I charge [you] therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, [because] they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn [their] ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

**When Jesus speaks, when we hear the Word of God,
when we come to church, what do we hear? What are we looking for?**

- Is it to hear what we want to hear?
- Is it to be vindicated, seen, justified?
- Is it to get something for ourselves?

**Or are our spiritual ears open, ready to hear what God is actually saying, no matter how much it hurts, how much it costs, or the direction it takes us?
 Even if it's what we weren't expecting?**

**Jesus gives clear prophecy of what would happen
 It could have happened any way. But it happened exactly as He said.**

**These words on the side of the road...from the Lord to His disciples
 The didn't hear they didn't listen they didn't remember
Until after the resurrection**

So much so,
 listen to what a few disciples and their mom do next

:17-22

Mother of James and John comes and kneels down...as if before a king

“What do you wish?”

“What do you have in mind, wish, purpose”

**She had a motive, she was there with a purpose..for her sons
 A mother pushing for her sons**

*Mother's will push for what they want most for their kids
 Success, power, love*

Isaac and Rebekah

Esau and Jacob

(favorites, pushing for birthright, deception, family split)

Right hand - symbol of authority

No satan and Jesus are not brothers or equals

Elders on thrones in Revelation

“The promise of Matthew 19:28 forms the background to this request; the ‘thrones’ are already assured, leaving only the question of precedence.” (France)

It’s good to ask God for things. It’s good to come to him and kneel down.

But are our requests for our kingdom or his?

This world and its cares? Or for the spiritual?

Are we more concerned with God’s kingdom advancing?

or simply our place in the kingdom?

Where do we sit? What authority do we have?

**When we ask for something, the way we ask and our request itself ...
even if our posture is right...**

Priorities are revealed

Luke 14:7-11 NKJV - So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: "When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; "and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. "But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Matthew 6:33 NKJV - "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all

these things shall be added to you.

Jesus answers her and the boys...they were there

These grown men needed, and let, their mommy come and ask for a promotion

*It's really time to grow up and be a man. Stop letting your mommy handle it all.
When you're an adult.*

You do not know what you ask

“Be careful what you wish for”

**Jesus was about to be betrayed, arrested, beaten, crucified and killed
He says they would too (they all would face death from their following Jesus)**

**But they thought they could rule too. That whatever was coming they could handle.
They'd walked with Jesus, been there since the beginning.**

**There's a real danger in ministry in thinking we're able to do the work of God on our own
That we can handle it
That we've got it figured out**

That because we want it it must mean God has it for us in that way in this time
And he may, but it's probably going to require a total heart change in us before we receive it

:23-34

**You will be partakers with me in this ministry, Jesus says
But only the father gives authority**

Psalm 75:6-7 NKJV - For exaltation [comes] neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. But God [is] the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another.

The rest heard, and were displeased

“Moved with indignation”

Angry, disgusted. Are you serious? You guys really had your mom ask that? You think you're the best of us and should rule over everyone? You want to take the kingdom into your own hands? **Who do you think you are?**

“The indignation of the ten doubtless sprang less from humility than jealousy plus fear that they might lose out.” (Carson)

They probably would have asked for the same thing, if they had less tact

:25-28

Jesus rounds everyone up and gives them a powerful lesson

Just because the Gentiles do it this way

Just because the world works this way

Doesn't mean God's kingdom does

The world promotes on

- Ability, prowess, talent
- Gives favor to the good looking, the well spoken
- Gives authority to those who will benefit them the most

God calls

- The weak, the poor, the powerless
- The stutterer (Moses), the forgotten overlooked son (David)
- Exalts those who are humble and passes over those who are proud

In the world, the military, the boss or the general barks the orders

In God's kingdom, the leader serves

Jesus would soon wash their feet

The Jesus Style book by the late Gayle Irwin dives deep into this

Moses school of ministry

The leaders I've respected the most are the ones that served the most

Cleaned the toilets

*Not too big to take out the trash
Willing and available always to talk to everyone - and truly interested*

Church sign, fast pass

Did not come to be served, but to serve

Jesus did not come to earth to have his needs met
He would die. He came to serve us and obey the Father.

That's the mark of ministry and the true minister - there to meet other's needs, even if their own aren't met - even if they're hurt. Cast away. Betrayed.

They're there to minister the Word and the love of God. Not to gain.

**So when we ask, when we come to a fellowship, when we get involved...
Who's it for? Really?**

Jesus came to give his life for many

Well, how many? How many people have ever lived?

This doesn't mean the work of the cross was partial

Jesus died to save EVERYONE on earth

But not EVERYONE will choose

It grants forgiveness to all, but we only reap the reward if we receive it

The word really means taking the place of

**Scholars point that Jesus was likely revealing that he was fulfilling Isaiah 53:11-12
He shall see the labor of His soul, [and] be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous
Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a
portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured
out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the
sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.**

:29-34

Continuing on towards Jerusalem

**Blind men, beggars on the road outside the city...they've heard about Jesus, he's finally
passing them by**

These blind men saw an opportunity and TOOK IT

What do we do with opportunity? It may never pass us by again. Jesus wouldn't be here again.

There's a real benefit to carpe diem

But it needs to be in prayer - when we're prayerful about things, we see the opportunities God is providing, and we take them. And pass over the opportunities of the world.

They recognize Jesus for who he is - the King, the Son of David - the Messiah

They know he's not an earthly King - and earthly king can't heal their eyes

It's funny how sometimes those folks who the world says have no insight, can't see, can see the best. The mighty in the world don't see God, but the weak do.

The crowds tell them to "hold their peace"

The crowds have no idea the priorities of Jesus.

They think this would bother him!

They think he has better things to do than listen to the cries of blind beggars.

But they cried out more!

Good for them!

Don't let anything stop you from crying out to God.

When the world tells you to stop praying. When the problems or the people around you tell you to stop seeking God...know that you're close to getting your answer. That you're going the right way.

Jesus stood still and called them

(I picture out over the crowd to these guys by the side of the road)

Do you know that your cry gets God to stand still? That he's not too busy? That he'll slow down for you?

What a contrast between their request and the request of the disciples and their mom...

They know they need mercy...

and just want their sight Not a seat.

Jesus has compassion - touches them.

How often Jesus heals with a touch. He doesn't have to. But I gather that he loves the connection with people. A gentle touch of healing. Of love.

What's their response? They follow him! Where's he's going, we're going. They didn't ask for mercy or their sight so they could go after their dreams I'm sure they had a lot of wishes in life...wish I could see. Wish I could play sports. Wish I could ride a horse...whatever sight required and everyone else could do.

But when they heard about Jesus and asked to be healed...it was simply so they could follow him. And Jesus didn't let their blindness stop them.

When Jesus healed you, forgave you, when you cried out to him and he gave you what you asked for - what did you do? Where did you go? Did you follow him?

Matthew 6:33 NKJV - "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."