





Thursday

Matthew 7:1-29 Directives Regarding Discernment

 Observation: "Ah-ha!" What struck you?


 Question: What do you not understand?


 Application & Prayer: How will I respond?


 Conversation: Who can I share this with?


Saturday

Matthew 9:1-38 Healing & Harvest in the Kingdom

 Observation: "Ah-ha!" What struck you?


 Question: What do you not understand?


 Application & Prayer: How will I respond?


 Conversation: Who can I share this with?


Friday

Matthew 8:1-34 Faith, Fear & Following the King

 Observation: "Ah-ha!" What struck you?

 Question: What do you not understand?

 Application & Prayer: How will I respond?

 Conversation: Who can I share this with?

Sunday

The Power of Poetry


Turning points in history are often accompanied by poems or songs that express the changes being brought about. Their power in the moment can also foster unity and forward momentum in the future, whether in times of celebration or conflict, seasons of separation or suffering. National anthems are a unique example of this. However, with overfamiliarity comes the risk that these powerful words become nothing but dead ritual, recited but no longer reflected upon. The prayer given to us by Jesus in Matthew 6:9-13 is such a poem. Consisting of an intro and two stanzas of three lines each, it reminds us of the central ethic of the Kingdom: love God (stanza one) and love neighbour (stanza two). Slow down and take a moment to consider afresh the powerful words of this prayer.


Choose one line. What does it reveal about the Kingdom?


If we are meant to pray like this regularly, how are we prone to forget what this line reveals?


Monday

Matthew 10:1-42 The Messiah's Messengers on a Mission

 Observation: "Ah-ha!" What struck you?


 Question: What do you not understand?


 Application & Prayer: How will I respond?


 Conversation: Who can I share this with?


Tuesday

Matthew 11:1-30 Stumbling Blocks to Accepting the King

 Observation: "Ah-ha!" What struck you?

 Question: What do you not understand?

 Application & Prayer: How will I respond?

 Conversation: Who can I share this with?


Lenten Readings


The Gospel of Matthew: The King and His Kingdom


Last week in the opening chapters of Matthew, we caught glimpses of the new creation, the Kingdom of Heaven, invading earth. Leading the way was John the Baptist and his cousin, the King Himself – God's Anointed One, the Messiah, the Christ! But where Adam failed in the Garden and Israel failed in the wilderness, Jesus passed each test, achieving a decisive victory over Satan. Like an initial confrontation in a film or novel, it introduces us to the two adversaries, the tactics they might use in the future, and perhaps even some expectations regarding who will claim ultimate victory. Having proven Himself as a worthy representative and king, Jesus goes on to minister through teaching (addressing our ignorance), preaching (addressing our disobedience), and healing (addressing our suffering in body and soul). Let's return to the mountainside to learn more about life in the Kingdom.


Wednesday

Matthew 6:1-34 Healing Our Hypocritical Hearts

 Observation: "Ah-ha!" What struck you?

 Question: What do you not understand?

 Application & Prayer: How will I respond?

 Conversation: Who can I share this with?