



THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE

*Week 1: The King | Teacher: Steve Frissell
Sermon Questions for 2.22.2026*

OPENER

Sunday's sermon begins by asking a defining question: *If you could summarize all of Jesus' message in one theme, what would it be?* Jesus' own answer is unmistakable: **the Kingdom of God has come near.** The Kingdom is not first about rules or morality — it is about **monarchy.** It is the announcement that God's reign is breaking into the world through a new and unexpected King. This week introduces us to the heart of the series: before we can understand the Kingdom, we must first see the King — and Jesus is a King unlike any other.

READ

John 18:33-37 Mark 15:17-20

MAIN POINTS

1. The Kingdom of God Is the Reign of a King

Jesus' central message was the arrival of God's Kingdom: **The King's reign - Through the King's people - Over the King's place.** The Kingdom is not simply a future destination, but God's active rule breaking into the world now.

2. Humanity Was Created for God's Rule — But Rebelled

From Genesis and Psalm 8, humanity was crowned with a royal calling: to live under God's reign and reflect His rule, but sin led us to build rival kingdoms of self, pride, power, and control.

3. Every Earthly King Failed — But God Promised a Better King

Israel demanded a king like the nations, and every king eventually proved broken. Yet Scripture kept pointing forward: "Your God reigns!" (Isaiah 52) a true King was coming.

4. Jesus Is the Promised King — But He Brings a Different Kind of Kingdom

Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a warhorse, but on a donkey: Not to conquer by violence, but to save through sacrifice. His coronation was not a palace ceremony, but the cross. The cross is not an interruption of His reign — it is the revelation of His reign.

5. The Question Is Not Just About the Kingdom — It's About Surrender to the King

The message ends with the central invitation: Have you bowed to the King? We all bow to something — success, fear, approval, comfort, control — but none of those kings can save. Only one King wears thorns. Only one King dies for His enemies. Only one King defeats death.

ENGAGE WITH GOD IN A GROUP

- What stood out to you most from this message about Jesus as King?
- When you think about Jesus, what titles come to mind most naturally (Savior, friend, teacher, King)? Why do you think “King” can feel harder to relate to?
- The sermon defines the Kingdom as: **The King's reign, through the King's people, over the King's place.** Which part of that definition challenges or encourages you most?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to enter Jerusalem on a donkey instead of a warhorse? What does that reveal about His Kingdom?
- What does Jesus' conversation with Pilate reveal about Himself? What does it reveal about his Kingdom? What thoughts does their conversation bring to your mind?
- The sermon says the cross is not an interruption of Jesus' reign, but the revelation of it. How does the cross redefine what true power looks like?
- What are some “rival kings” you are most tempted to bow to in your life right now (control, comfort, reputation, fear, etc.)?
- What would it look like practically this week to “bow to King Jesus” in trust, obedience, or worship?

BOTTOM LINE

This Kingdom is different than every other kingdom because the King is different than every other king.