

# Matthew

## He is Here!

### Matthew 28:18-20



**Bro. Kory Cunningham**

This Friday night, my wife let my boys do something that my mother always let us do before Christmas; that was to open our presents early. It always made my cousin, Michael, a little bit angry because he couldn't figure out why Santa came to my house before he did his house. So my wife decided to let our kids open one present early; it was like the perfect storm. They were in the living room and had their Jedi outfits on, acting out Star Wars. They had two broken light sabers, and I have three kids. So we knew that under the tree there were rectangular boxes with three brand new light sabers. So she asked me if I thought it would be ok to let them open those early because they would love it and I said that would be great! So we put them on the couch and let them open these new light sabers. Immediately, their faces fill with excitement! For the next few hours, they are playing with new resolve, Jedi knights taking on the evil Empire. They are the Republic, they are for democracy, and they are taking down the evil Empire in every way they can. At one point, I was on the couch typing through some notes on this sermon, and I called my son, Crider, over because I wanted to tell him something. So he comes to me in his Jedi outfit with his light saber, still ready to go, and I said, "Do you know something?" He said, "What?" I said, "Did you know that Jesus is the real emperor of the galaxy?" He just had this shocked look on his face, and he said, "Dad, you mean that Jesus is bad?" You see, Crider knew that an

emperor is bad, because someone with full authority, full power, always turns out to be evil! We know what Crider knows; when you have kings, and monarchies, and emperors, and dictators, that power usually culminates in evil for the people, never good for the people. So for Crider, the knowledge that Jesus was the true Emperor made him wonder if Jesus was bad. I looked into his face and said, "No, Crider, it is true that Jesus is the Emperor of not only the cosmos, but the Emperor of the whole galaxy. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is sovereign over everything, He rules over everything, and He is the one with full power and full control. But, He is good. And all of a sudden, this smile comes across Crider's face, as if he connects the dots. Just imagine if there was an emperor who had all authority, all control, and was all powerful, and at the same time, that emperor, that king, was good. He connected the dots; the world would be a better place. The galaxy would be at peace and we would have harmony.

The big message of Matthew is just that. The big message is the King has come. The One who rules over the cosmos, the One who rules over the entire galaxy is here! For 39 weeks we have been going down Route 66, looking at the Old Testament, and chasing down all of these promises that a king is coming, a Messiah is coming, One who is going to build God's house, which is God's Kingdom. He is going to rule and reign over God's people. For 39 weeks, we have been talking, and talking, about Him. Now, in Matthew's gospel, in a manger, we see Him. In the manger, we see all of the promises that God has been revealing to us throughout all of the Old Testament come true through that first Christmas morning.

We aren't going to start our Scripture in the manger scene, we are going to start at the end of Matthew, and then we will go back to the manger and work from there. We will see the risen Lord, the King of the universe; the Emperor of the galaxy who has all authority on Heaven and on Earth.

## **Scripture**

***"And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the***

***Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."***

## **The Gospels**

Before we dive into Matthew, which is called a gospel, I want to explain what a gospel is. We have four gospels. They are a unique genre of writing, not just a biography of Jesus. Some think they are, and that they are just telling us about Jesus; information about Him. But the gospels are not simply biographies. They were not written to tell us that Jesus was 5'10, brown eyes, and He liked walking by the Sea of Galilee. They are not just about information; they are about proclamation. Matthew is not just telling us about Jesus, he is proclaiming Jesus to us. There is a big difference. I don't want to just give you some information about Jesus. What I am doing through the message of Matthew is proclaiming Jesus to you. At the end of this message, there is a response that is demanded, and it is in light of the King and His Kingdom. You are to repent and follow after Him. It is a message of who Jesus is that is meant to transform your entire life.

When we see the four gospels, you might be mistaken in thinking that all four are the same. You might think it doesn't matter if you don't see the next three lessons, but that would be a mistake. These writers are not writing the exact same thing, instead, they are looking at Jesus from different perspectives. Matthew that he is writing to a Jewish audience who knows the Scriptures, and he is declaring that Jesus is the Messiah King.

It is neat that Matthew is writing to a Jewish audience who knows the Old Testament. That is very true about us here, because for 39 weeks we have been reading the Old Testament. We know the laws and the prophecies. Matthew will quote the Old Testament over 50 times to say, "As it is written," and then how Jesus fulfills it. So we are acquainted with the Scriptures; we know those prophecies. Matthew will declare that He is the Messiah King, Mark will say He is also the Suffering Servant, Luke will show that He is the Son of Man, while John will proclaim that He is the Son of

God. So it is important to hear all of the gospel lessons, because we will see who Jesus is in His fullness, put together by all of the gospels.

## **Matthew's Gospel**

I want to sum up Matthew's message before we go through the whole book. I believe the summation is that Jesus is the long awaiting Messiah, the sovereign King of God's Kingdom, which has broken into this current age, defeated the darkness, and is bringing a new Kingdom of light that began in Bethlehem and will culminate in New Jerusalem. Therefore, in light of the King and His Kingdom, our only proper response is to repent, to follow Him, and to build His Kingdom, which He calls fishing for men. We are to repent, to follow, and to fish.

- **His Heritage**

We are going to quickly walk through Matthew's gospel, so buckle up! In the first four chapters, we see that Matthew brings us to the birth of Jesus, but notice where Matthew starts. In chapter 1, he starts with the genealogy of Jesus before the birth. The reason he does this is in the first verse. "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." Matthew starts talking about Jesus as the son of Abraham and David, the two big figures in the Old Testament. Why does Matthew connect Jesus to them as their son? He is ending the story that has been told ever since Genesis. From Genesis to Malachi, there has been this story unfolding that a king is coming. In the gospels, we find the completion of that story; the King is now here. There was a promise to Abraham that in him there would be One will bless all the nations. He would have a son who is going to bless the world. From David, there would be a son who will be the forever King over God's Kingdom. So Matthew says Jesus is the son of Abraham, the son of David; the One who is the fulfillment of the entire Old Testament.

- **His Birth**

Then we see His birth. This is what makes Christmas so special, because Jesus' birth is completely unique. Jesus was born of a virgin just as Isaiah the prophet said, "Behold the virgin shall conceive a son and they shall call

his name Emanuel," which means God with us. The unique thing about the manger scene was this baby was conceived from the Holy Spirit. He is fully God and fully man. Some of the great Christmas hymns say, "Word of the father all in flesh adoring. True Gods from true Gods, son of God, begotten not created." What we find in the manger is a human being who is fully human, but at the same time, He is the eternal son of God; fully God, the Divine taking on flesh. As Mary holds the baby, she is holding her creator God, the miracle of the incarnation; that God would become a man and would dwell among us, and we could behold His beauty. We could behold His very face.

In the birth, the family travels to Bethlehem. This is to fulfill the prophecy in Micah that says He would be born in Bethlehem, and Jesus, the King, is born in Bethlehem. He is to rule from Bethlehem. Then Herod, the would-be king, tries to kill Him. So Jesus has to escape with His parents to Egypt, which is to fulfill the prophecy of Hosea that out of Egypt God is going to call His Son. We see some amazing things surrounding this birth. Magi from the East, star gazers, come and worshipped this new Son who has been born. They bring him royal gifts. They worshipped Jesus, the King of the Jews. This unique birth is why Christmas is such a big deal. God became a man, and He, the Christ, is the King over God's Kingdom.

- **His Baptism**

Now Matthew moves from the birth and goes to the baptism. John shows up baptizing and preaching: "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand." Then Jesus comes and is baptized by John to fulfill all righteousness. But something happened to Jesus' baptism that didn't happen at your baptism. When Jesus came up out of the water, the Holy Spirit descended like a dove and the Father shouts over Him from Heaven, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." The whole trinity showing up at the baptism of Jesus Christ declaring that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is not only the Son of God, He is the beloved Son of God.

Some of us have wanted those words said over us our whole lives. We have been seeking for someone to say we are beloved. We have done well. We seek it from an employer, we seek it from a spouse, we seek it from a

parent, or we seek it from a hobby. We want someone to say well done, good job. It is never quite good enough, because we were meant for our Creator to sing it over us. The problem is none of us have been pleasing to Him. We have all rebelled against Him. The only One who gets that declaration sung over Him is Jesus; You are my beloved Son, in what You have done, I am well pleased.

But the good news of the gospel is for those of us who has come to the Messiah, for those of us who are in Christ; it is also sung over us; In Him, I am well pleased. Because you, in Christ, are well pleasing to the Heavenly Father, He smiles and sings over you if you are in Christ. Therefore, you don't have to seek approval from anyone. You have approval from the living God. He is pleased with you because you are in Christ. At the baptism, He is declared the Son of God.

- **His Temptation**

From the baptism, hair probably still dripping, He is rushed out to a desert. We come to the temptations of Jesus, and here, He is going to battle with the evil one. It sounds very familiar of another place, where the first Adam would battle against the evil one. In a perfect paradise, Adam battled Satan but he gave into his temptation. He sinned against God, joined in the rebellion, and brought in the Kingdom of darkness. But now, Jesus, in a completely different place, no longer in a garden paradise, but a desert, is starving because He has fasted for 40 days. But in the desert, Jesus, the new Adam, does what the first Adam could not do. He completely defeats all the temptation of the evil one. In the desert, Jesus gets back the royal reigning over the Kingdom because unlike Adam, He doesn't succumb to the temptations of Satan. He rules the world the way He is supposed to, under the Word of God. Jesus fought temptation for us but He didn't give in to it. He defeated it, showing that He will be the Messiah King who will always do what is right because He is perfect, He is the righteous branch from Jesse.

- **His Ministry**

From the wilderness, He leaves and starts his public ministry. As He begins His preaching ministry, I want you to note the very first word He says in

His very first sermon that Matthew records. The very first line out of Jesus' sermon is, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." Talk about an introduction! I mean I made it funny talking about Star Wars, kind of had you laughing a little bit. Imagine if my introduction was, "REPENT." That was a hard first line from Jesus!

In our culture, we so prize this sense of tolerance where everyone is ok, and everyone is right. All of a sudden, Jesus becomes this prince of tolerance where He came to tell everybody: *You know what, yeah you have disappointed Me a little bit, but I just want to tell you, it is ok. I am ok with you. I am ok with your lifestyle. I just want you to know that I love you; I am here for you. If you need me; I am in Heaven, just call. You live your life however you want, and I just want you to know I am excited for you and I approve of you, and I really want your best life. I am applauding you; just go do whatever you want.* That is kind of how we make Jesus to be.

But in His first sermon, Jesus was not saying hey guys, everyone is ok. His first words were that every single person was completely wrong. He was not picking on just one group versus another group; He was picking on all groups, all walks, all lifestyles, and all activities. Every single one of them was completely wrong! What every person on the planet, no matter how righteous or wicked you think you are, needs to do is repent, because the Kingdom of God has come. The truth is you have been living in a different Kingdom. You have been living in the Kingdom of darkness. It has been all about you and what you want; your pleasure, your desires, and your life. You have been living for yourself, and Jesus says that something bigger than you has come; the Kingdom of God is here. The only proper response from you is to give up your Kingdom, come and find the King, and come live in my Kingdom. Jesus said, "Repent," and that is what we should do in light of the Kingdom because the Kingdom is at hand.

#### ❖ **Gathering His Disciples**

Next, Jesus goes to these fishermen. They were doing their own thing. They have their own job, their own career, their own dreams, and their own families. They are content with their lives, and He comes to them and

says, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." In other words, give up your entire life, come and follow after Me; there is something bigger here that you can be a part of.

In Jesus' preaching, we see this threefold message. Repent of your Kingdom and come into My Kingdom. That means you follow after Me now. In my Kingdom, I have this grand mission that you can be a part of. The mission is to fish for men. The King is here. The Kingdom has come. We must repent and believe in the gospel. In that, we follow Christ, and in that, we fish for men. Right off the bat, Matthew is declaring that the King is here in the first 4 chapters.

### ❖ **Sermon on the Mount**

Then we get this preview of what this Kingdom is like. It is a perfect Kingdom. Jesus is going to deliver the Sermon on the Mount. But we have to ask this question: What is Jesus going to do about the Law? The Old Testament has been a lot about the Law. What is Jesus going to do with the Law? Is He going to disregard it? What does grace mean? Does it mean for us to just forget the Law, just do what you want because you have grace and everything is ok? We will see that Jesus does not exclude the Law. In fact, He actually raises the bar of the Law. We are going to find that His Kingdom is not just a good Kingdom, not just an ok Kingdom, but it is a perfect Kingdom that only perfect people will be allowed into. Jesus says from the Scriptures: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." Jesus is not disregarding the Law, He is fulfilling the Law. He is doing the one thing you and I could not do; perfectly obey every command God has ever given. He is perfectly fulfilling the Law. We broke the Law, he fulfilled the Law. Then, He says about us: "You therefore must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." In other words, to live out the Kingdom ethic, it requires you to be perfect. Now that is bad news, because all throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is raising the bar of the Law. He said things like, you have heard it said that you should not commit sexual immorality, but I am telling you that you cannot even lust in your heart. See, Jesus said that it is just not outward conformity, but it is inward change is what I am requiring in my Kingdom. It is perfection, not



just on the outside but on the inside. That is bad news for all of us; that is condemnation for all of us. In the condemnation, here is the good news; The One who demands a perfect Kingdom is the One who fulfills the Kingdom Law for us. He fulfills the law for us, so that in Him, we have fulfilled all of the laws of God. In Him, we have become perfect just like the heavenly Father is perfect! That has already begun, even though it is not yet complete. This means when we see the Sermon on the Mount, we can start working on the inside and not just the outside. Through Christ, we have been made righteous. In him, we can obey, not just on the outside, but we can obey from our hearts. We see this perfect Kingdom that is proclaimed.

### ❖ **Jesus Heals and Conquers Evil**

As he walks down after this Sermon on the Mount, we see a conquering Kingdom that comes in the next chapters. In chapters 8-10, we see a king conquers, and as the old hymn says, *far as the curse is found*. I love it! He has the authority. They say we can't believe the authority You are teaching on this Mount. Then Jesus walks off the Mount, and with that same authority, He conquers the evil things that are happening on planet earth. The Kingdom of Light invades the kingdom of darkness.

The first one He meets is a leper, this person who is unclean. This person has a skin disease that is repulsive, and Jesus says be clean, and he is clean. He moves on to a suffering paralytic. This Centurion comes to Jesus and says, Jesus, can you heal my servant who is suffering. Jesus says yes, I will go with you. The Centurion says, You don't have to come with me, I realize your authority. All You have to do is speak a word and he will be clean. Jesus said, he is clean, and the paralytic is healed of his disease. Then He goes to Peter's mother-in-law's house. She has a fever, and Jesus merely touches her and her fever is gone. Jesus is wreaking havoc on things like disease, suffering, and sickness.

Not only that, but he gets in a boat and is sleeping when a big storm comes. The disciples are wiggling out because they thought they were going to die. Jesus rebukes the storm and the storm ends. They say, "What manner of man is this that even the wind and the sea obey him." In

chapter 14, Jesus does a similar thing and they actually worship Him for doing this, and worship is only given to God. We see that He is over nature, and also over demons. Jesus cast out demons from these two guys who were demon possessed. He cast them into pigs and the pigs killed themselves in the sea.

He is conquering sin. He is conquering death. He is conquering disease. We see a paralytic who comes to Jesus for healing. His friends are carrying him, and Jesus looks down at the man and says, "Your sins are forgiven," and the Pharisees panic. They accuse Him of blasphemy, because they say that only God can forgive sins. Jesus acknowledged that was exactly right. To prove that He is who He is, He tells the paralytic to get up and walk. The paralytic gets up and walks; showing that Jesus has the authority over sin and death too. He raised a little girl from the dead. He caused a blind man to see and a mute man to speak. Jesus is coming and His Kingdom is conquering all the ills that the curse brought: sin, sickness, death, disease, demons, and nature. All these things that have unraveled because Adam's sin are all being put back together, through the King who has come and the Kingdom that is bursting forth in light.

#### ❖ **Jesus Gives the Same Authority to His Apostles**

This is the Kingdom that has come to conquer, but not only that in Matthew chapter 10, we see Him giving the authority to his apostles to go and do the same. He said, go preach the gospel. Go tell them about the Kingdom, and you raise people from the dead, you heal disease, you heal the lepers, and you cast out demons because you have My authority. Not only does Jesus, the King, and His Kingdom conquer, but He allows His followers to participate in the Kingdom that is conquering over the darkness. He has called us to do the same thing. He has called us to go into the world with this beacon of light, to shine it everywhere darkness is found, and to propel the darkness out through the gospel. The Kingdom is a Kingdom that comes to conquer.

#### ❖ **Jesus' Identity Questioned**

As we move on, we see that the King's identity is questioned. John asks if He is really the One, because it seems like the Romans are still ruling.

Jesus tells John all that He is doing and gives him a new interpretation of what it means for Him to be the Messiah. He is not just going to overthrow Rome; He is going to overthrow Satan and the kingdom of darkness. The Pharisees actually accuse Him of being demonic; being filled with Satan because he is casting out demons! They said that He cast out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons. Jesus said, no, no, no, that is not the case because that would make no sense. That would mean Satan's kingdom is divided. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you. Jesus declared, amidst opposition, that He is the true Messiah.

### ❖ **Parables of the Kingdom**

In chapter 13, the Kingdom is explained in parables. I won't go through all of them, but I will give you my absolute, favorite parable in all of Matthew. It says, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." What is the Kingdom like? Jesus says that it is valuable beyond imagination. It is like treasure. The Kingdom and the King is so good, that when you find Jesus and His Kingdom, you are willing to sell everything you have in order to find and have Him and His Kingdom. This is a picture of joyful repentance. It is a picture of a person finding Jesus more valuable than their life, their sin, and their future; more valuable than everything. A picture of someone saying, You can have my life, my sin, and my future. I want You because You are more valuable, so with a smile on my face, I am turning from me to You, and I am living in Your forever Kingdom. The Kingdom is of value; the Kingdom brings joy for those who find Christ and repent.

### ❖ **Jesus Shows Compassion**

The King is one who has compassion. Multiple times, He is compassionate towards the people. In Matthew chapter 9, He says, "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." He is compassionate towards people. He is not just a sovereign Lord of the universe; He is the one who cares for you and me; He has compassion for us! He loves us! When He saw the crowds of 5000, He had compassion on them and fed them. When

He saw the crowds of 4000, the Bible says that He had compassion on them and fed them. You have to see the heart of your King. He is not a distant deity, he is an intimate King who loves you and is compassionate about you, and He cares about the needs that you have.

### ❖ **Jesus' Identity is Proclaimed**

Then we see that the King's identity is truly proclaimed. In chapters 16 and 17, He asks Peter and the disciples: "Who do you say that I am?" They confessed, "You are the Christ; the Son of the living God." They are saying, You are truly the One! Right after that, Jesus begins to tell them that He is going to have to go to Jerusalem and be crucified at the hands of the priests, the scribes, and the Romans. *Yes I am the King; I am the sovereign King. But here is a wrinkle in the plan that you don't know about. The king has a cross.* Peter actually pulls Jesus aside and rebukes Jesus. Jesus rebukes Peter and says, "Get behind me, Satan!" You don't know what you are talking about; you don't know the will of God.

After that, Jesus not only brings up His cross, but He brings up our cross. He says yes, I have a cross that I am going to bear because my Kingdom has to come through a death, burial, and resurrection because I have to fix your sin problem. But for you to come into the Kingdom, it is going to take a cross as well. Therefore, anyone who comes after Jesus has to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him. For you to get into the Kingdom, it causes you to have to go into a death too. You go into Christ's death. You die to that which you were; that sinful person who loves sin and self over God. You go into the tomb with Jesus, and you come out on the other side a resurrected person, who loves Jesus more than your sin and yourself. You deny yourself; you take up your cross, and follow Him because He is worth it.

At the declaration of that, Jesus goes up on a mountain and He is transfigured. His deity pours forth through His humanity. He shows Himself to be God! God, the Father, speaks out of the clouds and shouts at them; this is my beloved Son, listen to Him! He tells the disciples not to say anything about it until the resurrection happens, again repeating that a

cross is coming. We see that Jesus is truly the Messiah King and will suffer on a cross.

Then Jesus defines what Kingdom greatness is, what Kingdom greatness looks like. He says these words: "But whoever would be great among you must be your servant. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." In chapters 18-20, there was this repeated narrative about greatness. They thought greatness was becoming the boss, becoming the first, so that everyone served you. Jesus said, no greatness in the Kingdom to come is about being last, it's about serving others for their good, because I, the Messiah King, did that for you. I came not to serve, but to serve you and to give My life as a ransom for many. Kingdom greatness looks a lot different than worldly greatness. That is the Kingdom that is bursting forth; it is here, but it is not yet here in its fullness. But that is the Kingdom that is going to reign forever.

#### ❖ **Who Will Be in the Kingdom?**

In chapter 21-23, Jesus goes in and starts talking about who is in the Kingdom. That is a good question: Who is in the Kingdom and who is out of the Kingdom? In chapter 9, the Pharisees ask the disciples why their teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners. Those are the bad people, why does he associate with bad people? Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick...For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." Jesus revealed something about His ministry. He didn't come to fix those who didn't need fixing. He came to redeem those who were broken. It is only the broken who are going to find their way into the Kingdom, because they are the only ones who are going to come to the King who can redeem them.

He tells us through a series of parables; a parable of two sons, a parable of tenants, and a parable of a wedding feast. I want to kind of sum up those parables. Jesus said to the religious people: "Truly I say to you, the tax collectors and prostitutes go into the Kingdom before you." Here was the problem. The Pharisees assumed they were in the Kingdom because they

always did right. They were in the right place, they voted right, they stood for the right causes, and they were always on God's side. So they thought they were in the Kingdom because being a good person would get them in. But Jesus said no, you are actually outside the Kingdom. Because when the wedding feast happened, you refused to come. Jesus is the groom and the wedding feast had come, and they were ignoring and rejecting Him. He said, those prostitutes, those tax collectors, those people you thought could never come into the Kingdom; they are the ones who are actually getting in. The reason is because they understood the message of the gospel, and they have come to Me.

The shocker of the Kingdom is that the people who think they are in are more than likely out. The ones who thought they never could get in are the ones who understand and realize who Jesus is and run to Him for mercy. Those are the ones who get into the Kingdom. Someone who acknowledges their need for a Savior are the ones who are going to be at the banqueting table of the Lord.

#### ❖ **The Kingdom to Come**

Then we see this vision of the Kingdom to come. In chapters 24 and 25, He says, "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats." Here is the thing about the Kingdom that you have to understand, the Kingdom is already, and also not yet. The King has come. The Kingdom has been broken in, but it hasn't come in its fullness. Jesus has promised that He is coming back, and He is bringing the new Kingdom. In that new Kingdom, only righteousness is going to reign.

For that to happen, there is going to have to be a judgment. He is going to have to deal with all the wickedness the world has in it. But after that moment when His glory comes and He is sitting on his throne, there will be no more war. There will be no more slaughtering of innocent children. There will be no more computer hacking. There will be no more school shootings. There will be no more child abuse. There will be no more cancer. There will be no more spouse abuse. There will be no more sex

trafficking, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, or even thoughts of lust. There will be no more children's hospitals, antibiotics, or prisons. There will be no more funeral homes because there is no more death. A Kingdom is coming! It is here, it is growing, it is spreading, but it is not yet here in its fullness. When Jesus comes back, it will be here in its fullness, and only the righteous will stand. God will do justice to everyone else in the wrong.

Who are the righteous? They are not those who have done everything right. They are those who have come to the One who did right, Jesus Christ. They are those who are found in Him.

## **Crown Him King**

In the light of this coming Kingdom, we see the death of the King. Jesus says, "You know that after two days the Passover is coming and the Son of Man will be delivered up to you to be crucified." In Mark's gospel, the priests plot against Jesus and Judas sells him out. A woman anoints him for burial. Jesus celebrates the Passover, but reinterprets it. The bread is His body and the wine is His blood of a new covenant that is coming. We see a garden scene where He begs the disciples to pray but they sleep while Jesus begs for another way, though there can be no other way. We find the priest come and arrests him. Peter cuts off his servant's ear. Jesus puts it back on and says, put your sword away; I have angels who are waiting to come to My rescue at My very voice. The priest holds an illegal trial at midnight at the High Priest's house. They call false witness; the whole thing is bogus. They ask Jesus if He is the Christ. He says, yes, and I am coming in power and I will set on My throne. Then the guards beat Him. Peter denies Him. Pilot questions Him. The crowd wants a criminal over Jesus. The guards mock Him and they beat Him with a crown of thorns. Simon carries His cross up on the hill, but in reality, Jesus is carrying Simon's cross. We see Jesus crucified and mocked by those He is being crucified for. On the cross, Jesus is forsaken by God because of our sins. When He dies, the very curtain of the temple rips in two, opening up the passage for us into the very presence of God. Then He is taken from the cross and buried in a tomb. It seems like all hope is lost. It seems like

everything is over. We have a really long Sabbath, and then something happens; the King's resurrection and commission. You see, some ladies go to the tomb. They are sad and mourning. Then we get the news that He is not here. He is not in the tomb. He has been risen from the dead! Now, the risen Lord of the universe says I have all authority. All authority in Heaven and Earth has been given to me. I am the Sovereign Lord of the Universe. I am the Emperor of the Galaxy. I am King of the Kingdom that has come, and it is coming, and I rule and reign over everything and everyone. Here is My message to those who follow Me: "Go therefore and make disciples." Go therefore into the darkness and begin to build this Kingdom that has come and is coming.

In light of this message, this is not information, this is proclamation. We are to do something, we are to move. Something should stir within us in the fact that the King has come. There are two responses to Jesus for you. If you are an unbeliever, acknowledge what is true and what is going to happen at the end of time; that every knee will bow before Jesus and confess that He is Lord of the Universe. You need your sins forgiven. You need His work on the cross for you. It is not just getting your sins forgiven, it is getting your sins forgiven and be transferred into the Kingdom where you can live radically different for the Kingdom that is to come. Repent; repent of your sins and crown Jesus as Lord of your life and begin living in his Kingdom. If you are a believer, I hope your heart has been stirred. Celebrate His Kingdom and what He has done for us. Let us proclaim that Jesus is Lord; He is King of a new Kingdom!