



The King Who Changes Everything

Part 1: A Better King

Big Idea/Recap

This week's message introduced a "bigger" view of Jesus: **Jesus didn't come just to help us escape earth later. He came to announce and establish God's Kingdom now, and invite us into life under his rule.**

That raises a confronting but freeing question: Have I been treating Jesus as King... or mainly as someone who's useful to my goals?

Key Scriptures

- **Mark 1:14–15 (Jesus' announcement: the Kingdom is here, repent, believe)**
 - **Matthew 6:33 (Seek first the Kingdom)**
 - *Optional references from the message: Matthew 1:1*
-

Discussion Questions

- As we move into the Easter Season, did you grow up in a household that celebrated Lent? If yes, what were some of the things you did as part of that season?
- Who was the first "leader" you ever trusted (coach, teacher, boss, pastor, parent, etc.)? What made them trustworthy to you?

- What's an area of life where you're happiest with how things are going right now? What's an area where you feel a bit stuck?
- If you could hit "reset" on one habit, pattern, or area of life, what would it be and why?
- When you hear the word "kingdom", what's your first mental picture or association (positive or negative)? What shaped that?
- Where do you see people (in general) looking for a "king" today: someone or something to lead them, save them, give them identity, or make life work?
- What are the downsides of building your life around a "king" that isn't actually good (success, money, approval, control, comfort, etc.)?

Read Mark 1:14-15

- What stands out to you from Jesus' first public message? What surprises you about it?
- Jesus says the Kingdom of God has come near. If that's true, what do you think Jesus is inviting people into (practically, not just theologically)?
- The word "repent" can be loaded. In your own words, what do you think Jesus is calling people to turn from and turn toward?
- What do you think "believe the good news" looks like as a lived posture, not just a mental agreement?
- If Jesus' Kingdom is real and present, what might it change about how we think about:
 - Power and status
 - Forgiveness and enemies
 - Money and anxiety
 - Identity and worth
 - Relationships and sexuality
 - Truth and integrity

Read Matthew 6:33

- In the flow of Jesus' teaching, what problem is he addressing right before this verse (worry, security, what we run after)?
- What does it look like to seek first the Kingdom in normal life (work, parenting, study, dating, singleness, money decisions)?
- What's the hardest part about "seeking first" for you personally: trust, control, pace, fear, or something else?
- How can you tell when you're seeking the Kingdom... versus just asking Jesus to bless what you were already going to do?

Challenge Question (For Takeaway):

- What's one area of your life where you've been treating Jesus as useful rather than King? What's one practical step you can take this week to put his way first there?

- What do you think is underneath the resistance (fear, pride, comfort, control, shame, desire for approval)?

Action: This week, read Matthew 5–7 and look for one teaching of Jesus you can practice in your chosen area.