

Kingdom – When a Good King Reigns

Weekend Discussion Questions

April 25-26, 2015

Community:

1. In movies, television, or novels, what are examples of good kings or rulers? What type of things do they do that would make them a good king?
2. In movies, television, or novels, what are examples of bad kings or rulers? What type of things do they do that would make them a bad king?

Core:

1. Take a few minutes to recap the last few weeks of the Kingdom series—what sticks out to you?
2. In the Bible, or in history, what is different when a good king or ruler reigns versus when a bad king or ruler reigns?
3. We're looking at a place in the Bible where Jesus is talking to a crowd of people, explaining to them what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. Read through Matthew 5:1-9. What sticks out to you from these verses?
4. These scriptures are called the beatitudes. Normally, they're read conditionally—i.e. "If you make yourself poor in spirit, you'll gain the kingdom of heaven." But what if that wasn't how Jesus meant it—how would their meaning change if they weren't conditional, but just declarations of people who are blessed in God's eyes?
5. Look at Ezekiel 36:26-28. Why is it important to understand these verses before we read what Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount?
6. If you looked at the list of the beatitudes, which ones would you identify with the most right now? How would the blessing attached to it apply to your life?

Challenge:

1. Scott said that God's kingdom is defined as "God's people, in God's place, living under God's rule and blessing." If we want our lives to be lived in God's kingdom, then we need to answer a few questions:
 - a. What would you stop pursuing and what would you start pursuing?
 - b. What would you stop fighting for and what would you start fighting for?
 - c. What would you stop doing to others, and what would you start doing for others?
 - d. What would you stop doing to yourself and start doing for yourself?
 - e. What would you aggressively remove from your life, and what would you aggressively add to your life?

