



Man Down, Man Up - Week 2

King Down, King Up – Jim Burgen

November 7, 2021

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation--encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

Genesis 1:27, 2:15-25, 3:1-7, 17; Mark 1:14;-15.

// Message Summary

This week's message from Pastor Jim Burgen is the second in a 5 week series titled, *Man Down, Man Up*. The goal of this series is to examine who we are, why we are here, and how we are to live our lives - especially for our men. We were reminded that the message of the Gospel is not simply one of personal salvation: put your faith in Jesus, receive forgiveness and go to Heaven instead of hell. It is also one of restoration: restored relationship with God, restored ability to reign in this life, restored image-bearing of the King. When we embrace the message of restoration, the process of restoring the image of God in us begins and we once again become "kings-in-training" - as was the original plan for humanity through Adam.

As "kings-in-training", we begin to learn these truths about kingship:

1. Created and chosen by God, Kings listen to and obey God alone.
2. It is the God-empowered king who is ultimately responsible to provide for his kingdom.
3. Convicted and led by God, Kings protect their kingdom by protecting the borders and fighting against all enemies that seek to steal, kill and destroy.

// Biblical and Historical Context

The idea that humans were created in the image of God was captured in the early Latin Bibles by the phrase '*Imago Dei*.' This is not to imply that God physically looks like a human being, but that humans were endowed with a particular set of traits not seen elsewhere in creation (not even in angels). Though the Bible

doesn't unpack this term as thoroughly as we might hope, many Christian theologians across the millennia have regarded *imago Dei* as our ability to act rationally and volitionally (our mental capacity), our ability to choose right from wrong (our moral capacity) and our ability to uniquely relate with one another (our social capacity). Though His image in us has been scarred by sin, Paul testifies that the Holy Spirit works within us to restore us back to His glorious image (2 Corinthians 3:18).

// Community Questions

1. If you were a medieval king (or queen) for a day, what would you spend the day doing?
2. Who is your most admired king or queen (either historical or fictional)? What do you admire about them?

// Discussion Questions

1. As a group, read Genesis 3:1-7. What stands out to you?
2. When Satan wanted Eve to disobey God in Genesis 3, what did he say to her? What was he trying to get her to think about God?
3. Jim stated, "Kings protect their borders and put themselves in between their kingdom and any enemy that wants to steal, kill and destroy their kingdoms."

Can you think of a time when you did this for your family? Can you think of a time when you didn't? Please share, if you are comfortable doing so.

4. Who in your circle is waiting for you to provide what only you can provide? What is God telling you to do to make that happen?
5. Jesus also went to war against Satan to protect those He loves. You can read part of His battle in Matthew 4:1-11 (sometimes called 'The Temptation of Christ').

How did Jesus' response to Satan differ from Eve's (from Genesis 3), and what does that teach us about how we should also fight?

// Challenge

Men - keep coming to church! Not only are you building your spiritual life with God, you are sending a powerful message to your family and others around you that are intentionally fighting for them.

Women - keep supporting and cheering on your men! Your husbands, brothers, sons and other men in your life want to know that you see their commitment and that you respect and admire it. Look them in the eye (really, do it) and let them know you value them fighting for you and those around you.