



Our Easter program this year is called, "Love Lives."

God's Kingdom is anywhere God rules and reigns. Namely, in our hearts, over our lives. God wants to bring his Kingdom into your life. He wants to be the King of your heart. (Begins message with Mother's Day)

Week 7 May 23 - May 29

SUNDAY

This week we wrap up our series Love Lives. Appropriately enough we end the series on Mother's Day. We are who we are because our mothers loved us into life. They sacrificed themselves to bring us into the world and then to nurture and care for us when we could not care for ourselves.

It is only through a mother's love that we are able to go out into the world. All we accomplish can be traced back to our mothers. Today, pray for your mother. Ask that God bless her for the love she showed you.

MONDAY

While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for "the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water; but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 1:4-5

Acts of the Apostles tells us that before Jesus ascended into heaven, he gave them a mission. He gave them the mission to go out into all the world and make disciples. Instead of telling them to go immediately, he commands them to wait first for the Holy Spirit. Jesus knows that they will not be able to accomplish the mission on their own power. And so out of love for them and to set them up for success, he tells them to wait for the Holy Spirit before they go.

We live in a world that is rapidly moving forward and one that will often push us to move to the next thing and the next thing without even thinking. While God does want us to move forward, he does not want us to move forward without his Spirit, without his direction and sometimes that means we have to wait. Waiting can be as simple as putting a few minutes aside in the morning to listen to the Spirit or pausing between activities and asking the Holy Spirit to be present in our hearts.

Take a moment today to wait on God's Spirit. Sit in silence and tell God you are waiting on him. Stay there until you experience that presence in your heart. Then you can move confidently into your day knowing God is with you.

TUESDAY

When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority." Acts 1:6-7

The apostles ask Jesus if he is going to restore the kingdom of Israel. They still do not understand that Jesus did not come to establish a political and geographical kingdom but a spiritual kingdom. They don't get it until they receive the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. And so Jesus tells them to not worry about when God is going to fully and finally establish his kingdom because they don't even truly understand it.

The kingdom of God is wherever God rules and God reigns. God wants to establish his kingdom in each of our hearts. Our job first and foremost is to establish God's kingdom in our hearts.

Pray today that God's kingdom comes into your heart. Pray his will be done in your life as in heaven.

WEDNESDAY

When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:6-8

Jesus tells the apostles that it is none of their business when God is going to finally and completely establish his kingdom. Then he tells them what their mission is. They are to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and to the ends of the earth. Their job is to introduce everyone to God's kingdom and into a relationship with God.

The apostles' mission is our mission as well. God loves us and then invites us to share his love with others by bringing people far from him into a relationship with him. Wherever we go, we have the opportunity to build God's kingdom by inviting people into a relationship with their heavenly Father. We are to be witnesses of the love God has shown us.

Pray today for the opportunity to be a witness of God's love to people who don't know him. Ask God to show you one person you can be a witness to today.

THURSDAY

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. Ephesians 1:17

Paul tells the Ephesians that he is praying for them. He prays that they will know God. However, he does not mean that they will just have an intellectual understanding of God. He doesn't just mean head knowledge but heart knowledge. He means an intimate relationship with God that comes from a lived relationship.

Ask God for the grace to know him better today.

FRIDAY

May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power, for us who believe. Ephesians 1:18-19

Paul continues in his prayer for the Ephesians. He prays that they will know God intimately and then he explains what he wants them to know. He prays that they will know from the core of their being the hope they have in God. God's hope is different from human hope. Human hope is wishful thinking, but God's hope means confidence and conviction in a preferred future.

Express your confidence in God today. Tell God that you believe he loves you so much that he is working to bring about a better future for you.

SATURDAY

The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.

The LORD is in his holy temple;
the LORD's throne is in heaven.

His eyes behold,
his searching glance is on mankind.

The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.

The LORD searches the just and the wicked;
the lover of violence he hates.

For the LORD is just, he loves just deeds;
the upright shall see his face.

The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.

Psalm 11
