

# Small Group Resource: The Kingdom Announcement & Breakthrough - sermon by Robbie March 9, 2025

Text: Matthew 1-4 & 26-28

## Opening Discussion

- We have spoken a lot over the last several weeks about parallels in Matthew. Have any stood out to you? Prior to this sermon series, have you ever noticed parallels in Scripture that reveal a deeper meaning?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus' life and ministry were structured around an announcement and a breakthrough of the kingdom of heaven?

## Key Themes & Discussion Questions

- 1. Gifts for the King (Matthew 2:11 & Matthew 26:6-13)**
  - How do the gifts given to Jesus at His birth parallel the anointing He received before His death?
  - What do these moments teach us about who Jesus is?
- 2. Threats Against Jesus (Matthew 2:16 & Matthew 26:14-16)**
  - How do Herod's attempt to kill Jesus and Judas' betrayal show opposition to God's kingdom?
  - How does God's plan ultimately prevail despite these threats?
- 3. Declarations and Failings (Matthew 3:16-17 & Matthew 26:69-75)**
  - How do God's declaration over Jesus and Peter's denial contrast?
  - How does this encourage us in our faith when we face doubts or failures?
- 4. Temptation & Submission (Matthew 4:1-11 & Matthew 27:11-14)**
  - How did Jesus resist temptation in the wilderness?
  - How does Jesus' response to Pilate reflect His earlier victory over temptation?
- 5. The Kingdom Announced & Fulfilled (Matthew 4:17 & Matthew 28:5-6)**
  - What does "the kingdom of heaven has come near" mean?
  - How does the resurrection confirm the kingdom's breakthrough?
- 6. The Great Commission (Matthew 4:23-25 & Matthew 28:18-20)**
  - How does Jesus' early ministry foreshadow His final command to the disciples?
  - What does this tell us about our role in God's kingdom?

## Reflection on the Field of Blood

- How does the transformation of the "Washerman's Field" into the "Field of Blood" point to Jesus' redemptive work?
- What does it mean that the field, once a place of judgment, became a burial place for foreigners?
- How does this story challenge or deepen our understanding of God's kingdom?

## Application & Prayer

- How is God calling you to be part of His kingdom's breakthrough today?
  - Spend time in prayer, asking God to reveal areas where His kingdom is at work in your life.
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## Overall Summary Statement

The Gospel of Matthew presents a structured vision of the kingdom of heaven, beginning with its announcement (Matthew 1-4) and culminating in its breakthrough (Matthew 26-28). Through key events—gifts to the King, threats against His life, declarations and failings, temptations and submission, and ultimately the resurrection—the story of Jesus mirrors a larger movement of God's redemptive plan. At the heart of this narrative is the transformation of the Field of Blood, which serves as a powerful image of the kingdom: once a place of continual washing, then a site of judgment, and finally a symbol of redemption through the blood of Jesus. This reveals that the kingdom is not established by human effort but by Christ's sacrifice, inviting all people—Jew and Gentile alike—into God's restoration.