

**Speaker:** Pastor Buster Brown

**Today's Message:** The Kingdom Breaks Into Time and Space

**Today's Text:** Matthew 9:27-38

<sup>27</sup>”And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, “Have mercy on us, Son of David.” <sup>28</sup>When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, ‘Do you believe that I am able to do this?’ They said to him, ‘Yes, Lord.’ <sup>29</sup>Then he touched their eyes, saying, ‘According to your faith be it done to you.’ <sup>30</sup>And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, ‘See that no one knows about it.’”<sup>31</sup> But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

<sup>32</sup>As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him. <sup>33</sup>And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, ‘Never was anything like this seen in Israel.’ <sup>34</sup>But the Pharisees said, ‘He casts out demons by the prince of demons.’

<sup>35</sup>And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup>therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’”

### **Heidelberg Catechism, Question & Answer 123**

Q. What does the second petition mean?

A. "Your kingdom come" means: Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way that more and more we submit to you.

Preserve your church and make it grow.

Destroy the devil's work; destroy every force which revolts against you and every conspiracy against your holy Word.

Do this until your kingdom fully comes, when you will be all in all.

### **Shorter Catechism, Question & Answer 102**

Q: What do we pray for in the second petition?

A: In the second petition (which is, *Thy kingdom come*) we pray, That Satan's kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it; and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

- The living God “breaks into” my world in daily, s\_\_\_\_\_ ways.
- Jesus is not an I\_\_\_\_\_, but a living, interceding (Romans 8:34), loving King.

ANSWERS: significant, legend

#### **I. Kingdom Focus (Matthew 9: 27-31)**

The primary focus is not the blessing bestowed or the need met by the Lord, but the glory of the cross.

*“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* **Mark 10:45**

*“Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”* **Luke 10:19-20**

## II. **Conflict in the Kingdom** (Matthew 32-34)

In the gospels, beginning in the birth narrative, we see the full energy of the powers of darkness poured out in order to stop the work and mission of Christ.

*“The people Jesus calls to be ‘learners’ don’t have a blank slate. Their slates are very full---of foolish, darkened, enslaved thinking that is opposed to learning Jesus at every point. Becoming a learner of Christ therefore requires a radical change. It requires a great work of God to rescue us from the dark domain in which we were enslaved, and to transfer us into the kingdom of his beloved Son. From our side, it requires repentance---that is, a dying to the web of lies that our lives once were built on.”* **The Vine Project**, p. 67

Two Responses:

1. Amazement/Marvel by the crowd.
2. Rejection by the Pharisees

## III. **The Compelling Nature of the Kingdom** (Matthew 9:35-38)

*“To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.”* **John 10: 3b-4**

*“And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”* **John 10:16**

*“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”* **John 10:27-28**

## QUESTIONS

1. How do we live, when we think of Jesus as a mere legend?
2. What is included in Paul’s superlative building in Romans 8:31-38? (Why is the interceding Christ a great comfort?)
3. What is the focus of the kingdom?
4. Why were the powers of darkness fully unleashed as portrayed by the gospels?
5. What does “Let my voice be heard in yours” based upon John 10 (see John Piper) mean in the present-day context? (Who are you seeking to impact for Christ as the Easter season approaches?)
6. How can we sometimes see “the washed clean and socially acceptable people” as those who do NOT need a Shepherd?