

Prayer Points

Continue to Pray for the conflict in Israel and the impact of war in the region. Pray for our mission partners and those who serve faithfully on both sides.

Give thanks that there is now freedom to worship and witness to Christ in Albania. Pray that the lives of those who follow Christ will reflect God's love, peace and hope to all they meet.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

October 22nd 2023

The King and the Kingdom: Serving Mark 10:35-45 & Romans 12:3-8

Culture is the stories we tell that express meaning and make sense of the world.' The kingdom of God is a *story*, traceable through the pages of the biblical canon from Adam to Christ and a future hope. The church is *not* the kingdom in its fullness, the church is a manifestation of the kingdom, or an outpost of the kingdom. As the church follows the King, we create spaces that look, behave, believe and reorder like the kingdom. What does Kingdom culture look like today? How do we live as people who follow Christ Jesus the King, demonstrating the power of gospel and the life of the Spirit?

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001

According to the Bible, every Christian has been given at least one spiritual gift to use in service to the body of Christ. “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen” (1 Peter 4:10–11). There is a difference between the Body of Christ universal (1 Corinthians 12:12–13) and the local church Christians attend for corporate worship (Hebrews 10:25). But there is no difference in how Christians ought to use their spiritual gifts, because serving God is a twenty-four-hour proposition, not a Sunday-only enterprise. All Christians everywhere should be serving God in their local churches and looking for opportunities to serve outside the walls of a church building (2 Corinthians 9:12–13).

What then should our attitude be as Kingdom people to serving? Another important step in determining how to best serve is for us to discover what our spiritual gifts and passions are.

What are your gifts? What are you passionate about in life or in helping others?

Read Mark 10:35-45

1. Why is serving and knowing your gifts important? Does it matter if we don’t serve one another? Romans 12:1-2.
2. Following a dispute about who is the greatest, Jesus lays out an important leadership principle. Does this apply to all of us or just leaders? Who does Jesus use as an example and why? What does serving others really mean, especially when Jesus references his own mission?

3. When can serving become a burden rather than a delight? Is serving others always fun? Can you share a time when you persevered in serving but it brought fruit later?

Read Romans 12:3-8

4. Each believer has a gift (or gifts) to be used for the building up of the body and the perfecting of the other members of the body. In short, we belong to each other, we minister to each other. What are the essentials for ministry and growth in the body of Christ?
5. The gifts that we have received, are because of God’s grace. They must be accepted and exercised by faith. We were saved “by grace, through faith” (Eph. 2:8–9), and we must live and serve “by grace through faith.” Since our gifts are from God, we cannot take the credit for them. What happens if we see our gifts as a right, something we are born with that lasts forever? How can our gifts impact the way we see ourselves and others?
6. It is tragic when any one gift is emphasised in a local church beyond all the other gifts. “Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?” (1 Cor. 12:29–30). The answer to all these questions is no! Why do we value some gifts above others? James 3:1.
7. In what two extreme ways can a believer act inappropriately with regard to his or her spiritual gifts? What are two marks of a Christian who is ministering effectively in the body? How can you better see these marks in your own life?
8. How is serving one another a witness to others of the gospel? Do you ever think that the way you serve others at work, in the home, church or elsewhere can be a demonstration of gospel?