



## “The Kingdom is Yours”

June 6, 2021

*3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. - Matt 5:3-12*

*Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” -Matt 20:25-27*

1. Have you ever felt marginalized as a person for any reason (e.g. your ethnicity, social status, gender, beliefs, etc)? How did this make you feel and how did you respond?
2. Pastor Steve said that *“A big part of the restoring work of God’s kingdom is the redemption of power—so that through the proper exercise of power we can help others to flourish rather than to exploit and abuse them.”* Read Matt 20:25-27. How have you seen power and authority exercised well in the church in your experience? How have you seen it exercised poorly? How did people benefit/suffer as a result?
3. The New Testament consistently speaks against showing favoritism towards those the world esteems (e.g. wealthy, powerful, ethnicity, gender, etc) and speaks of honoring those the world often rejects (e.g. poor, foreigners, widows & orphans, etc). What are some actionable things you feel you can do personally and as a church to welcome the marginalized and forgotten that are beloved by Christ?