

50+ Ministry

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60+ *Legacies*

Sunday Class

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**All Saints Presbyterian Church
Austin, TX**

Led by Rev. Craig Chapman
cchapman@allsaintsaustin.org

Kingdom Parables

Understanding & Applying

All Saints Presbyterian Church

+ + +

Austin, TX

Spring-Summer 2025

Taught by Rev. Craig Chapman

50+60+ Schedule – 2025

Songs of Praise

Prayer & Scripture

“Kingdom Parables”

6/22/25

50+60+ Schedule – 2025

June

- Sun, 6/29 – **Last Class** until 8/17.

July

- Fri, 7/4 – **Patriotic Pool Party** – 6:00 PM at the Chapmans' home. With Unidos & Young Adults. BYOB + Appetizer or Dessert. Burgers & hot dogs provided. Registration is now open!

August

- Fri, 8/8 – **Dinners for 7+** – 6:30-9:30 PM. Various locations.
- Sun, 8/17 – **Class Resumes** – 10:15 AM in Room 210.

50+60+ Schedule – 2025

September

- Sun, 9/21 – **Fall Kick-off Lunch** – 11:45 AM-2:45 PM, at The Chapmans' home.

October

- Mon, 10/13 – **Supper & Swing Dancing** – 7-9 PM. Big Band Bash at the Lakeway Activity Center. BYOB & Food.

November

- Fri, 11/7 – **Chili Cook-Off** – 6-9 PM at All Saints. BYOB + Chili, Cornbread, &/or Cobbler. Prizes in each category.

December

- Fri, Dec 5 – **Christmas Party** – 6:30-9:30 PM. BYOB + Appetizer or Dessert.



Trinity Sunday

ORDINARY TIME

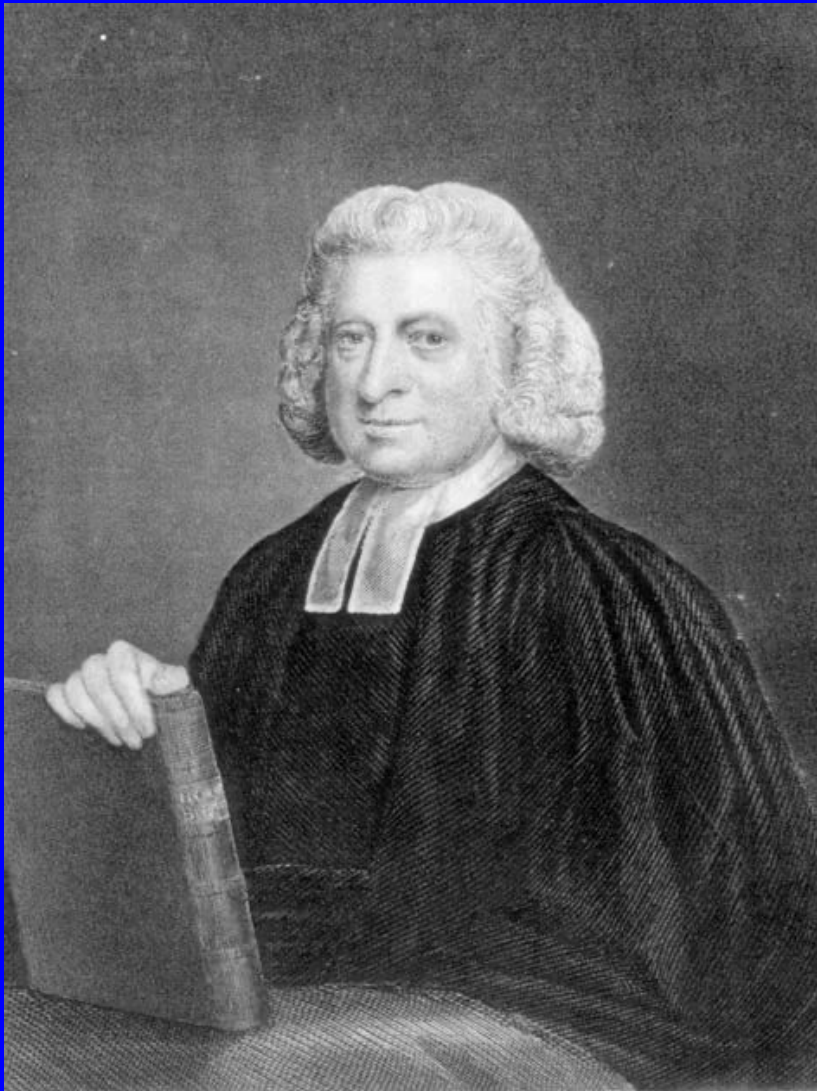


COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING

Anonymous

COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING

Anonymous



Charles Wesley



George Whitefield

COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING

Anonymous

Come, thou Almighty King, help us Thy name to sing;
Help us to praise; Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou Incarnate Word, gird on Thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend: come, and Thy people bless,
And give Thy Word success; Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour: Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

To Thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be hence, evermore.
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore!

50+60+ Schedule – 2025

Songs of Praise

Prayer & Scripture

“Kingdom Parables”

6/22/25

Psalm 121:5-8

*The LORD watches over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.*

*The LORD will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.*

(ESV)

New City Catechism

Part 1—God, Creation & Fall, Law

Q5: What else did God create?

A5: *God created all things by his powerful Word, and all his creation was very good; everything flourished under his loving rule.*

New City Catechism

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A5: *God created all things by his powerful Word, and all his creation was very good; everything flourished under his loving rule.*

- Genesis 1:31

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. . . .

- John Calvin

Correctly...is this world called the mirror of divinity; not that there is sufficient clearness for man to gain a full knowledge of God, by looking at the world, but that he has thus so far revealed himself, that the ignorance of the ungodly is without excuse. ... The world was no doubt made, that it might be the theatre of the divine glory.



- 4/6 – Because You Asked #41 – Debts vs. Trespasses
- 4/13 – Because You Asked #42 – Kingdom of God
- 4/20 – Easter (no class)
- 4/27 – Because You Asked #43 – Resurrection & Ascension
- 5/4–New Series: *Kingdom Parables*–Mt 6.25-33—Birds & Lilies
- 5/11 – (Mother's Day) – Guest Teacher: Daniel Pope
- 5/18 – Kingdom Parables - Mt 13.24-43—Wheat, Seed & Leaven
- 5/25 – Memorial Day Weekend (No Class)
- 6/1 – Kingdom Parables - Mt 13.24-43-Wheat,Seed & Leaven 2
- 6/8 – Kingdom Parables-Mt 13.44-50-Treasure, Pearl & Net
- 6/15 – (Craig away) Guest Teacher: Bo White
- **6/22 – *Kingdom Parables-Mt 18.23-35-Unforgiving Servant***
- 6/29 – *Kingdom Parables* – Last 60+ Legacies Class until 8/17

Kingdom Parables

- **Kingdom of God**

= a realm, not like on earth

= wherever God's light and royal will is reigning

= includes the Church, but it's more

- **Parable**

(Greek: *parabole*)

= compare = metaphor = picture = illustration

= concrete depiction of a cosmic truth

= a story with a symbolic, spiritual meaning



Kingdom Parables

- Jesus says, “... *the kingdom of heaven* is like ...” at least 10 times in Matthew, often when introducing a *parable...*
- 13:24 – ... a man who sowed good seed (Weeds & Wheat)
13:31 – ... a mustard seed ...
13:33 – ... leaven ...
- 13:44 – ... treasure hidden in a field ...
13:45 – ... a merchant seeking fine pearls ...
13:47 – ... a net ...
- 18:23-35 – Unforgiving Servant
... king settling accounts



Kingdom Parables

- Jesus says, “... *the kingdom of heaven* is like ...” at least 10 times in Matthew, often when introducing a *parable...*
 - 20:1-16 – ... *a landowner* ... (Workers in the Vineyard)
 - 22:1-14 – ... *a king giving a wedding banquet* ...
 - 25:1-13 – ... *ten virgins* ...
 - 25:14-30 – ... *a man going on a journey* ... (Talents)



Kingdom Parables

Matthew 13:24-43

- 13:24-30 – Wheat & Weeds
- 13:31-35 – Mustard Seed & Leaven
- 13:36-43 – Jesus' Explanation
- Unifying Theme
The work of Christ and his Church may begin small, with seemingly little promise, but not only will it survive, it will grow explosively, and eventually reap an unimaginable harvest
- Christians must be *patient*, like farmers
- Our Master seeks to avoid Premature Wheat Removal
- So ... we should not remove ourselves from God's World
- Our small minority can impact the large majority a lot



Kingdom Parables

Matthew 13:44-50

- 13:44 – ... *treasure hidden in a field* ...

13:45-46 – ... *a merchant seeking fine pearls* ...

13:47-50 – ... *a net* ...



Kingdom Parables

Matt 13:44-50—Hidden *treasure* ... *pearl of great value* ...

- **Quotes**

- Variously Attributed

It costs you nothing to become a Christian.

It costs you everything to be a Christian.

- Matthew 16.24 (Jesus to his disciples:)

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (Also: Luke 17.33)

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.

- Jim Elliott

He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

- Everything is worth nothing ... when compared to following Jesus



Kingdom Parables

Matt 13:44-50—Hidden **treasure** ... **pearl of great value** ...

- **Quotes**

- C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”



Kingdom Parables

- Main Message

- God's Kingdom is priceless ... it's worth all we have ...
- True disciples recognize that God's Kingdom is so valuable it's worth sacrificing whatever it takes to be its citizen

- Examples

- Quotes

- Questions

Matthew 13:44-50—

The kingdom of heaven is like

treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

*... the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one **pearl of great value**, went and sold all that he had and bought it.*



Kingdom Parables

- Why does this parable follow?
- Questions
- **Our Context**
 - ~ 70-80% - life after death
 - ~ 68% - believe in heaven
 - ~ 59% - believe in hell
 - < 10% - likely they'll go ...

Matthew 13:44-50—
*... the kingdom of heaven is like a **net** that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every **kind**. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*



Kingdom Parables

- Main Message(s)
 - C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*
There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, “Thy will be done,” and those to whom God says, “Thy will be done.”
 - Annihilationism – no option
 - Call: Disciples Serve ...
 - Wisely ...
 - Confidently ...
 - Sacrificially ...
 - Urgently ...

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13:47 – ... a net ...
- 18:23-35 – ...*king settling accounts*
(Unforgiving Servant)



Matthew 18:23-35—The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him **ten thousand talents**. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and **I will pay you everything**.’ And out of pity for him, **the master** of that servant released him and **forgave him the debt**. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him **a hundred denarii**, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and **put him in prison** until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had **mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?**’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not **forgive your brother from your heart**.”

Kingdom Parables

Matthew 18:23-35—



Cultural Context

Lessons

Theological Questions

Kingdom Parables



Matthew 18:23-35—

*... a king's servant ...
owed him **ten thousand talents** ...*

Cultural Context

- **Talent**
= highest denomination of currency in the ancient Greco-Roman world; also a unit of weight (e.g., silver) ~ 75 pounds
= \$36,000
- **Ten thousand**
= highest named numeral (Greek: *myrioi*; English: 'myriad')
= \$360,000,000
~ *trillions of trillions*

Kingdom Parables



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= \$36,000
- *Ten thousand*
= highest named numeral (Greek: *myrioi*; English: 'myriad')
= \$360,000,000
~ trillions of trillions
- *Denarii*
= 1 day's minimum wage
 - \$7.25/hour x 8 hours x 100

Matthew 18:23-35—

... a king's servant ...
owed him *ten thousand talents* ...

... one of his fellow servants ... owed
him *a hundred denarii*

Kingdom Parables



Matthew 18:23-35—

Lessons

- The King's Gracious Forgiveness

... ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had ...

*... 'Have patience with me, and **I will pay you** everything.'*

*... **the master** of that servant ...
forgave him the debt.*

Kingdom Parables



Matthew 18:23-35—

Lessons

- **The King's Gracious Forgiveness**

- Initial, without request
 - Would be cared for
 - Instead of:
debtor's prison ... execution
- Servant's Request
 - Q—What does it reveal?
- King's Response, upon request

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- **The Servant's Response to Grace**

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*... 'Have patience with me, and **I will pay you** everything.'*

*... **the master** of that servant ... **forgave him the debt.***

*...seizing...choking...'Pay what you owe.' ...fellow servant fell down and pleaded...'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and ... **put him in prison** until he should pay the debt.*

Kingdom Parables



Matthew 18:23-35—

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 - Q—What does it reveal?
 - King's Response, upon request
- **The Servant's Response to Grace**
 - Q—How do they compare?
 - Q—What does it reveal?

... ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had ...

*... 'Have patience with me, and **I will pay you** everything.'*

*... **the master** of that servant ... **forgave him the debt.***

*...seizing...choking...'Pay what you owe.' ...fellow servant fell down and pleaded...'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and ... **put him in prison** until he should pay the debt.*

Kingdom Parables



Lessons

- The Fate of the Unforgiving

Matthew 18:23-35—

... ‘You wicked servant! ...

... ‘should not you have had *mercy* on your fellow servant, as I had *mercy* on you?’ ...

... delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not *forgive* your brother from your heart.”

Kingdom Parables



Matthew 18:23-35—

Lessons

- **The Fate of the Unforgiving**
 - We face God either as ... Savior ... or ... Judge
 - Mercy misapprehended (missing) from your heart ...
... yields unforgiveness
... brings Judgment
 - Mercy received yields ...
... Mercy given
 - We can never repay our debt of sin

... ‘You wicked servant! ...
... ‘should not you have had **mercy**
on your fellow servant, as I had
mercy on you?’ ...
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D.A. Carson

Jesus sees no incongruity in the actions of a heavenly Father who forgives so bountifully and punishes so ruthlessly, and neither should we. Indeed, it is precisely because he is a God of such compassion and mercy that he cannot possibly accept as his those devoid of compassion and mercy.

*... ‘You wicked servant! ...
... ‘should not you have had **mercy**
on your fellow servant, as I had
**mercy on you?’ ...
... delivered him to the jailers, until
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my heavenly Father will do to every
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Kingdom Parables



Theological Questions

Matthew 18:23-35—

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Kingdom Parables



Matthew 18:23-35—

Theological Questions

- What kind of Judgment?
- Eternal Security?
- Forgiveness for the Unrepentant?

... ‘You wicked servant! ...

*... ‘should not you have had **mercy** on your fellow servant, as I had **mercy** on you?’ ...*

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Kingdom Parables



Matthew 18:23-35—

Theological Questions

- What kind of Judgment?
 - *Hell* = separation from God
 - Proof-text for Roman Catholic doctrine of *purgatory*

... ‘You wicked servant! ...

... ‘should not you have had *mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?*’ ...

... delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not *forgive your brother from your heart.*”

Kingdom Parables



Theological Questions

- Eternal Security?

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my heavenly Father will do to every
one of you, if you do not *forgive*
your brother from your heart.”

Kingdom Parables



Theological Questions

- **Eternal Security?**

- Matthew 6.14-15—if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses
- Matthew 7.21-23—Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Matthew 18:23-35—

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Kingdom Parables



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Theological Questions

- **Eternal Security?**

- 1 John 2.19—*They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.*

Kingdom Parables



Matthew 18:23-35—

Theological Questions

- **Eternal Security?**

- 1 John 2.19—*They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.*

... ‘You wicked servant! ...

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... delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not **forgive your brother from your heart.**”

Herman Ridderbos

Whoever tries to separate man’s forgiveness from God’s will no longer be able to count on God’s mercy. In so doing he not merely forfeits this, like the servant in the parable. Rather he shows that he never had a part in it. God’s mercy is not something cut and dried that is only received once. It is a persistent power that pervades all of life. If it does not become manifest as such a power, then it was never received at all.

Kingdom Parables



Matthew 18:23-35—

Theological Questions

- **Forgiveness for the Unrepentant?**
(Can I be saved if I refuse to forgive?)

... ‘You wicked servant! ...

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on your fellow servant, as I had
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Matthew 18:23-35—

Theological Questions

- **Forgiveness for the Unrepentant?**
(Can I be saved if I refuse to forgive?)
 - Matthew 18:15-17, 21-22—*If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of 2 or 3 witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ... Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as 7 times?” Jesus said... “I do not say to you 7 times, but 77 times.”*
- ... ‘You wicked servant! ...
... ‘should not you have had **mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?**’ ...
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Kingdom Parables



Matthew 18:23-35—

Theological Questions

- **Forgiveness for the Unrepentant?**
(Can I be saved if I refuse to forgive?)
 - Not teach: loss of salvation
 - Does teach: genuine faith in Christ shows itself in transformed living
 - Truly receiving Christ's forgiveness will lead believers to forgive others
 - Refusal to forgive reveals a lack of genuine faith in Christ
 - True Christians never absolutely refuse to forgive another
 - May God guard each of us from ever responding like this servant
- ... 'You wicked servant! ...
... 'should not you have had **mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?**' ...
... delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not **forgive your brother from your heart.**"

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 - True Christians never absolutely refuse to forgive another
 - May God guard each of us from ever responding like this servant
 - *Is there someone you need to forgive today? What might it look like?*
- ... 'You wicked servant! ...
... 'should not you have had **mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?**' ...
... delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not **forgive your brother from your heart.**"

Next Class – June 29, 2025

Prayer