

In His Presence – Study Guide

Based on the sermon by Pastor Anthony J. Shetley
Primary Text: Matthew 18:20

Main Theme

Jesus preached that the kingdom of heaven was “at hand” because the King Himself was present. Wherever Jesus was present, the power of God’s kingdom was present — bringing truth, healing, deliverance, forgiveness, and hope. Today, Christ is still present with His people, and those who come to Him in faith can still experience His power.

Primary Scriptures & Key Thoughts

Matthew 18:20

“For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”

Key Thought: Jesus is present among His gathered people. The power is not in the number gathered, but in His presence.

Daniel 7:14

“His dominion is an everlasting dominion...”

Key Thought: Jesus is the eternal King whose kingdom will never end.

John 8:31–32

“The truth will make you free.”

Key Thought: God’s truth breaks the captivity of lies and sin.

Romans 3:4

“Let God be found true, though every man be found a liar.”

Key Thought: God’s truth is greater than human reasoning, opinions, or deception.

Isaiah 55:8–9

“My thoughts are not your thoughts...”

Key Thought: God’s ways and understanding are higher than ours.

Second Corinthians 10:3–5

“Taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”

Key Thought: Spiritual warfare involves confronting lies with God’s truth.

John 8:44

“He is a liar and the father of lies.”

Key Thought: Satan works through deception and falsehood to keep people in bondage.

Isaiah 9:2

“The people who walk in darkness will see a great light.”

Key Thought: Jesus came as the light that shines into spiritual darkness.

Matthew 4:16

“The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great Light.”

Key Thought: Jesus fulfilled Isaiah’s prophecy by bringing hope and truth to the world.

Luke 4:18–19

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me...”

Key Thought: Jesus was anointed to bring deliverance, healing, freedom, and salvation.

Examples of Faith in Jesus’ Presence

Matthew 8:5–13

The Centurion and His Servant

Key Thought: Faith believes Jesus can move even from a distance.

John 4:46–53

The Royal Official’s Son

Key Thought: The man believed Jesus’ word, and his son was healed.

Mark 9:17–27

The Father of the Demon-Possessed Boy

Key Thought: Honest faith cries out, “I do believe; help my unbelief!”

Mark 5:25–34

The Woman with the Issue of Blood

Key Thought: Even reaching out in faith to touch Jesus brings transformation.

Mark 2:1–12

The Paralytic Lowered Through the Roof

Key Thought: Persistent faith brings people into the presence of Jesus.

Additional Scriptures for Further Study

John 1:1–5

Jesus as the Light shining in darkness.

John 14:6

Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life.”

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Acts 4:12

Salvation is found in no other name but Jesus.

James 4:8

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

Ephesians 5:8

“Walk as children of Light.”

Colossians 1:13–14

Delivered from darkness into the kingdom of Christ.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. What does it mean that the kingdom of heaven was “at hand” in Jesus?
2. Why is truth essential to spiritual freedom?
3. What are some lies people commonly believe about God, themselves, or salvation?
4. Which example of faith in the Gospels stands out most to you and why?
5. How does knowing Jesus is present with His people today change the way we gather and worship?
6. What area of your life needs the healing, freedom, or hope found in Christ’s presence?