

**STORIES OF THE KINGDOM**

**MAY 3, 2026**

- Who has the authority over your heart?
- Are you seeking a visit from Jesus or a transformed life?

*When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.*

*(Matthew 8:14-15)*

How do you **respond** to Jesus working in your life?

*When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:*

*"He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases." (Matthew 8:16-17)*

- Which words of Jesus have you decided are not important?

*When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."*

*(Matthew 8:18-19)*

Is Jesus your **Lord** or your teacher?

Are you **adding** Jesus to your life or are you giving it to Him?

*Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."*

*Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."*

*(Matthew 8:20-22)*

*As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:57-62)*

*"It is a costly because it costs a man his life,  
and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life."*

*— Dietrich Bonhoeffer,  
The Cost of Discipleship*

*So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye," he said, "and then I will come with you." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?" So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant. (1 Kings 19:19-21)*

Is there **something** in your life too valuable for you to leave behind?

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