



JESUS: KING AND JUDGE



Gospel Life Communities Study Guide

Matthew 22:34-40

Love God. Love People.

Welcome to the Fall 2024 GLC Season! We hope the Lord is blessing, challenging, and encouraging you through this sermon series thus far. This season, we will be in Matthew chapters 22-25, which covers Jesus's interactions with his disciples and the religious leaders of the day, in the last week before his arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

Our weekly studies will have four parts, following the four categories that we've set for GLC's, and then end with prayer.

exploring

We will explore God's word together, looking at the actual words of the passage each week.

digging

We will dig deeper into the word, discussing the context and meaning of the passage.

growing

We will discuss how the passage is applied to our own lives.

going

We will discuss how the passage informs, challenges, and encourages our gospel witness.



exploring

“34 But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

(Matthew 22:34-40 ESV)

1. Read Matthew 22:36-40 as a group.
2. After reading it together, what questions about this passage come to mind?

digging

1. As mentioned in the sermon, this lawyer would have known the Mosaic law and the Torah as well as anyone, if not better. What then is the significance of this lawyer referring to Jesus as a teacher?
2. What is in the text that gives us a hint as to what the intentions of this lawyer really are? In light of this, why then does he call Jesus, “teacher”?
3. Loving God and loving neighbor summarizes the 10 commandments. Why does Jesus use this particular order: God then others? Why not others then God?

growing

1. The Pharisees and Sadducees were social and religious groups who opposed one another, but equally opposed Jesus. Think of some contemporary social or religious groups who would oppose each other and discuss how. Then discuss their potential common opposition towards Jesus.
2. The text says these groups were seeking to “test” Jesus. Jesus was often tested by people in an attempt to expose him as false. What are some questions you may have faced which were meant to “test” you or the validity of the Christian faith?
3. What tool did Jesus use in response to this “test”? How can you use scripture to respond to the “tests” mentioned in the previous question?

going

Jesus shows his love for the Pharisees and Sadducees by feeding them God’s perfect will. He is calling them to love God and love their neighbour. He is reminding them of what it means to be great in God’s kingdom.

1. When has it been easy/hard to love God?
2. What has it been easy/hard to love others?
3. Romans 5:1 tells us that while we were still sinners, enemies of God, Christ died for us. How does this truth affect our call to love our neighbours as ourselves?

Pray “Kingdom Prayers”

Kingdom prayers are prayers that don't only focus on the immediate need, but also on God's glory.

For example, if someone has a sore knee instead of just praying “God, please heal Betty's knee”, you would pray something like “God, please heal Betty's knee so that she can continue to serve you and your people; so that she can continue attend worship services pain free and give you glory for your healing hand.”

See the difference?

Some ideas of what to pray for:

- Each other's needs/requests
- King Road's ministries, missionaries, members, and pastors
- Opportunities to share the gospel