

King Jesus Gospel _ Ep. 40

[Matthew 21:12-22](#) (NLT)

¹² Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all the people buying and selling animals for sacrifice. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. ¹³ He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves!" ¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵ The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the children in the Temple shouting, "Praise God for the Son of David." But the leaders were indignant. ¹⁶ They asked Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?" "Yes," Jesus replied. "Haven't you ever read the Scriptures? For they say, 'You have taught children and infants to give you praise.'" ¹⁷ Then he returned to Bethany, where he stayed overnight. ¹⁸ In the morning, as Jesus was returning to Jerusalem, he was hungry, ¹⁹ and he noticed a fig tree beside the road. He went over to see if there were any figs, but there were only leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" And immediately the fig tree withered up. ²⁰ The disciples were amazed when they saw this and asked, "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" ²¹ Then Jesus told them, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and don't doubt, you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. ²² You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it."

The King Jesus Gospel includes an invitation to become the Radiant People of God.

The Radiant People of God are people of prayer.

- 1) Jesus rebukes the priority of consumerism.
- 2) Jesus reminds us of the priority of prayer.
- 3) Jesus reminds us the point of prayer is to become fruitful in our faith.

John 15:5-8 (NLT)

⁵ "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. ⁷ But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! ⁸ When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

2 Peter 1:3–4 (ESV)

³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

3 John 1:2 (NASB) - Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.

Prayer is communion with the Father, through the Spirit present within us, because of the death and resurrection of the Son.

Challenge: Pause in Prayer 3x a day for the next seven days. Turn your attention to God's presence with a simple prayer.

Radiant People are those who pursue, host, and seek to abide in the presence of the Father, Son, & Spirit (John 17:3).

PRACTICING THE WAY

As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection, but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.

Read through the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John), slowly.

Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or connect group)

- Read Matthew 21:2-22. Sunday's message was about prioritizing prayer. Did anything speak to you or stir a question within you?
- Do you find it easy or eerie to sit in silence?
- What are the differences between a selfish prayer and surrendered prayer?
- Read John 15:5-8. What are some things you notice in this passage?
- How does prayer help us examine the root system of our life? What is our internal life (roots of our life) so important?
- Pastor issued a challenge for this week. What is your gameplan to participate in this challenge?