



# JESUS ON THE ROAD

## Think Kingdom First and Last

Week of May 29, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

### Message Recap:

Read Matthew 12:1-14 and  
Matthew 6:9-13, 33

Jesus didn't come to establish a religion; he came to establish a Kingdom. The Kingdom of God isn't something you will one day come to—you are in it the moment you trust Jesus. To truly think and live the Kingdom, you reject being religious. Religion is a rule-based, appearance-focused substitute for the infinite mystery of the Kingdom of God. When you reject religion and instead seek first God's Kingdom and righteousness, everything else you need will be given to you as well. As you think and live Kingdom, you will do the things that Jesus did—helping the needy and broken people of the world. You will radiate the presence of God through the Spirit of Jesus. You will change the world with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self control.

### Pray

Jesus, you have invited me into your Kingdom, and I accept it! Help me see where I am being religious instead of Kingdom-minded so I can repent from that and instead have a fulfilled life by thinking and living out Kingdom things. Help me change my broken world by sharing your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self control with those around me for your glory and your Kingdom.

Share Your Experience This Week  
#SevernRun

### Getting Started

- If you had a magic wand, what one thing would you change?
- At the end of the service, what emotion did the burning papers evoke?

### Listening Deeply

1. Explain what you think Jesus means in Matthew 12:7: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." What does this have to do with Kingdom living?
2. Discuss the following statements and give examples to support your conclusions.
  - Religion is counterfeit presence; Kingdom is actual presence
  - Religion is about appearance and control; Kingdom is about humility and the surprise of grace
  - Religion requires your all; Kingdom inspires your all
  - Religion makes you mean and judgmental; Kingdom makes you merciful and gracious to other flawed, broken people (including yourself)
3. Talk about the following points regarding recognizing the Kingdom.
  - The Kingdom will look and feel like what Jesus actually did and said. (What does this mean and how does this look in your life?)
  - The Kingdom will be mysterious and surprising, veiled and "small." (What does this mean and how does this look in your life?) ref: John 3:8
  - The Kingdom will radiate the Presence of God through the Spirit of Jesus. (What does this mean and how does this look in your life?) ref: Galatians 5:22-23
4. How will your thoughts and actions change this week based on living and thinking Kingdom?

### Living Wide in Jesus

When you live for Kingdom and not religion, you can change the world! Everyone is gifted, and everyone is called to glorify God. So in everything you do, in all that you seek, seek God first. Trade the kingdom of Earth for the Kingdom of God and discover how God will reveal his name as holy. He will bring his Kingdom through us, and act his will through us, to glorify himself and change our broken world. Think about how changing your mindset from religious to Kingdom can change the way you think, the way you act, and the way you speak. This week, let go of whatever is holding you back and allow God to work the way of the Kingdom through you.