



Sunday 13th June 2021

Mark B

Dear friends,

If you have the Internet, you will find a video to accompany this sheet on YouTube from Sunday morning – search for Isle of Man Methodist Church and you will find it on our YouTube channel.

Our prayers are with you all,

Isle of Man Methodist Staff Team

Opening Prayer

I come this day to worship You,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Open my heart, to receive Your love,
my soul to receive Your Spirit
and my mind to know to Your truth.
For Your glory.
Amen.

Hymn: Seek ye first the Kingdom of God

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you;

Allelu-, alleluia:

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
allelu-, alleluia!*

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto to you;
Allelu-, alleluia:

We shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord;
Allelu-, alleluia:

Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)

Let us pray together

Lord, I come with thanksgiving and praises in my heart for your love and faithfulness. You are worthy of my heartfelt worship today.

Lord, thank you for sending your Son Jesus who inaugurated your kingdom on earth and for the continuing power of the Holy Spirit, which helps the kingdom to grow.

Forgive me Lord when I fail to see your will in my life and in others.

Forgive me when I am overcome with anxiety, when I become impatient and when I lose heart in times of suffering and prevailing evil in our world.

Help me to be confident in your faithfulness even when things seem bleak and to know that you are in control of all things. **Amen.**

Today's Reading:

Mark 4:1 - 8:21

Find a Bible and read the above passage. If you do not have time to read the whole section, focus on Mark 4:1-34 and Mark 8:1-21

A time of reflection

Jesus teaches that the growth of a seed is a mystery just like the growth of the Kingdom. We know that a seed needs soil, water and an adequate amount of sunshine to grow, but the question still is - who makes it grow? More importantly, a seed needs to be planted in the ground because a seed, if left alone on a windowsill will not grow. The Seed that Jesus talks about is God's word being sown in people's lives where it will take root and grow. Although for a time the seed seems inactive, Christians must not be anxious but trust in God's timing and sovereignty.

Note also, that the Kingdom of God starts small, just like the mustard seed. Jesus' disciples and his contemporaries did not understand that he was not here to establish a 'political kingdom', In fact, God's kingdom is so contrary to earthly kingdoms in every way that it requires only what are probably seen as the lowest of human standards, such as, humility, servanthood and willingness to serve.

However, even though it starts small, it grows beyond expectation. God's word has far-reaching outcomes.

In our daily readings through Mark's gospel, we are today reminded of the significance of numbers found in the gospels. There are two occasions where Jesus feeds a multitude:

Miracle one - 5,000 fed, 12 baskets left over.

Miracle two - 4,000 fed, 7 baskets left over.

It helps to know that 5 and 12 are 'Jewish' numbers: 5 books of the Torah, 12 tribes of Israel. And that 4 and 7 are 'Gentile' numbers: the four corners of the earth, and the 70 Gentile nations known at that time. The

thousand-multiplier signifies abundance. So these miracles signify something vitally important - all people, everywhere, will join in the heavenly banquet.

What starts small - like the size of mustard seed - grows to be something that encompasses all people in all places.

What small thing can you do today to plant a seed of God's Kingdom in someone's life?

Hymn: Hear the Call of the Kingdom

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below:

Hear the call of the kingdom,
lift your eyes to the King;
let his song rise within you
as a fragrant offering
of how God, rich in mercy,
came in Christ to redeem
all who trust in his unfailing grace.

Hear the call of the kingdom
to be children of light
with the mercy of heaven,
the humility of Christ;
walking justly before him,
loving all that is right,
that the life of Christ may shine through us.

*King of heaven, we will answer the call.
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,
filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim
salvation in Jesus' name.*

Hear the call of the kingdom
to reach out to the lost
with the Father's compassion

in the wonder of the cross,
bringing peace and forgiveness,
and a hope yet to come:
let the nations put their trust in him.

King of heaven, we will answer the call ...

*Keith Getty (b. 1974), Kristyn Getty (b. 1980)
and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)*

Prayers of Intercession

Lord God, we pray for all pastors, church ministers, missionaries and Aid workers who risk their lives for sake of spreading your gospel in word and deed.

Faithful God, may the seeds that are sown bring fruit of faith, love, and trust in You.

We pray for those who have been overcome with struggles of life, doubt and fear and for whom faith means nothing.

Faithful God, may seeds be sown that bring fruit of justice, love, joy, and peace.

We pray for the persecuted Christians in our world, for whom following Christ may mean much suffering.

Faithful God, may seeds be sown that bring fruit of justice, love, joy, and peace.

We pray for those who have been bereaved, those who are in physical, mental or emotional pain.

Faithful God, may seeds be sown that bring fruit of healing, wholeness, and joy.

We pray for ourselves, and ask that we may know Your Holy Presence among us as we seek to serve you so that we may reflect kingdom values rather than worldly values.

We ask these prayers through the powerful name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.*

A prayer of blessing

Father God, as we look forward to the new week, may your discerning knowledge fill our hearts and minds to see your will. May we play an active part in extending your kingdom. Help us to bring you praise and glory by being in your service with our words, deeds and thoughts. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

