



fellowship church

Sermon Discussion Guide

May 3, 2026 - Scott Allen

On the Path to Kingdom Maturity (Matt. 17:22–27)

Sermon summary: This week's sermon focused on seeing our discipleship through to completion. We cultivate this growth by **(1) regularly remembering old truths** because we are forgetful, stubborn, and constantly changing. Secondly, we must **(2) embrace the freedom of sonship**, recognizing that Christ has fully paid our ransom, brought us into the Royal Family, and we are no longer outsiders looking in. Finally, as mature disciples, we **(3) willingly lay down our personal rights and freedoms for the sake of others**, ensuring our conduct remains honorable and never becomes an unnecessary stumbling block that keeps people from the Kingdom.

Discussion Starter

- Scott mentioned the experience of correcting his kids about something (patience, contentment), and then noticing the very same thing in himself. Have you ever had the experience of correcting someone for something, then realizing that you have the very same struggle?
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Reflection Questions

- On point #1 (*Regularly remember old truths*), Scott shared the insight that “the *you* that’s hearing it now is not the same *you* who heard it before.” Have you ever had the experience of an old truth hitting you in a new way?
 - Instead of *I’ve heard this before*, what should the heart of a growing disciple be toward repeated truths?

- Jesus uses the metaphor of *sons of the king* to explain not only his own identity, but the identity given to us in him. What meaning is packed into this loaded metaphor? What blessings does God want to teach us about by speaking in this way?
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Application Questions

- (Personal implications) One implication of point #2 that Scott shared is “don’t live like you owe back-taxes to God.” Do you ever find yourself tempted to think or act in this way? Why?
- (Communal implications) Have you seen instances before in the church of “choosing a fight” or “needing to be right”? How do we tell the difference between genuinely promoting truth versus following our flesh into a fight?
- Can you think of particular instances where it could be helpful to lay down a right for another person’s good?
 - In those instances, how are we becoming more like Jesus?
- (Missional implications) As 1 Cor. 1:23 points out, the cross and the message of the gospel is going to be offensive. We can't and won't change the message. But in what ways do Christians cause unnecessary hindrances to non-believers? How can you take practical steps to be of no offense?
- Vision Question: *We are a family of disciples on mission.* How does our posture as Christians towards one another affect nonchristians’ view of us and God? What is at stake, missionally, in our unity?
- Concluding prayer: Scott shared Philippians 1:6 near the end of the sermon. Close out your group by reading this verse in its broader context, Philippians 1:6–11, and then invite one or two members to pray the words of this passage over your group.

This week’s guide written by: Riley Neal

Tips for Group Leaders

- DO ask open-ended questions. DON'T ask questions where a short "right" answer ends the discussion.
- DO encourage mutual participation by every group member. DON'T feel the need to respond or weigh in after every contribution. Avoid monologuing. As the leader, your goal is to facilitate mutual discussion between all group members (Eph 4:15–16).
- DO ask follow-up questions: "What do you mean by that?" "Tell me more!" "Has anyone else experienced something similar (or different)?"
- DO feel free to pick and choose questions that are a good fit for your group. DON'T feel the need to get through every question, and don't worry if you spend most of your time on a few questions that generate a lot of good discussion.
- DO keep the main thing the main thing. Steer your conversation toward the main theme of the sermon and the biblical text. DON'T get sidetracked on less important matters, theological debates, etc. A rabbit trail might sometimes be worth pursuing—if group members are wrestling deeply with the implications of biblical truth for their lives. Otherwise, steer conversation back to the main topic.
- DO get into the text. It could be helpful to read over the passage together or ask questions directly related to the text. Help group members engage the text for themselves and respond to what they see there.
- DO revisit important moments from the sermon—a memorable story, an impactful quote, a convicting point of application. "Remember when pastor X talked about Y? What impression did that make on you?"
- DO allow space for reflection, silence, and thoughtful answers. DON'T feel that you need to jump in or ask a new question just because the group has been quiet for a few seconds. A good rule of thumb is to wait until the silence gets awkward, then count silently to ten before jumping in.
- DO bring discussions home to practical, concrete everyday life. DON'T let discussion and application stay in the abstract realm. Steer discussion toward *what does responding to this sermon look like for me?* If comments are vague or general, ask "what would that look like, practically?"