

BIBLE JOURNEY:
GOSPELS: God's Son Saves the World
Kenwood Baptist Church Spring Sermon Series
Pastor David Palmer
March 7-April 25, 2021

OVERVIEW: This spring we continue through God's Word together with *Bible Journey*. We will cross the threshold into the New Testament and begin with our study of the gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are called gospels because they herald "good news." The New Testament gospel is a royal proclamation about King Jesus and the arrival of the kingdom of God. God's good news for the world is that God's Son saves the world. We live in a hurting, broken, and divided world. We see idolatry, immorality, and injustice around us and within us. We are in need of rescue. The gospels present the person, words, and work of Jesus who saves. His salvation provides forgiveness for sins. His salvation creates new life. His salvation produces the fruit of righteousness in lives, families, and society. His salvation comes to change the culture in our city and in our nation. His salvation remakes us into the image of God and empowers us to live as God intended at creation.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is not intuitive. It must be learned. It must be carefully studied. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we find meaning, forgiveness, and transformation. We discover who we are and how we are meant to live. The way of Jesus requires self-denial to achieve happiness. The leadership of Jesus demands humility to produce honor. The teaching of Jesus destroys our misjudgments to build godly wisdom. The healings of Jesus produce compassion and cause us not to look the other way. We need devote our attention on Jesus to grasp the life of His kingdom. This spring we will challenge our congregation to fast for the Lenten season leading up to Holy week and Easter Sunday. I will be fasting from all social media and news for forty days to devote my attention to Jesus in the gospels. I want to challenge you to do the same. Fasting humbles us and provides space in our souls for the Lord to fill. May the life and person of Jesus Christ fill our hearts and minds this spring. May He bless us with His presence and teach us His ways as we continue our journey of faith together.

CHURCH INTEGRATION: We will seek to integrate and apply the series with a companion Wednesday night study for the whole church. During the week, we will seek daily engagement with the particular lesson in Bible Journey for the week. We will also host a Wednesday noon forum that will include a sermon discussion and debrief as we seek to learn and live out God's Word in our world today.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: Our memory verses for this series will be:

John 3:16-17

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

GRAPHIC DESIGN: The controlling image of the series draws our attention to content of Bible Journey. We crest the Mount of Olives and approach the city of Jerusalem. This is the view of Jesus on Palm Sunday. He comes to the city in order to accomplish the saving mission for which he was sent. God’s Son saves the world, a crucified Savior outside the city walls. He is lifted up and will draw all people to himself. He will reconcile them to God and to one another. They will become his body, the church, a suffering and witnessing people in the world.

WORSHIP EMPHASIS AND KEY HYMNS/PRAISE SONGS:

Build Your Kingdom Here	Come to the Altar	And Can It Be
This I Believe	Behold Our God	Living Hope
What a Beautiful Name	No longer Slaves	Man of Sorrows
Holy Spirit Living Breath of God	Psalm 62	Resurrection Power
Great is Thy Faithfulness	When I Survey	I have decided

WEEK 1: March 7 Pastor David Palmer
 Title: “The Kingdom of God is at hand” (Communion Sunday)
 Text: Mark 1:1-15
 Theme: Jesus announces the end times have come. His righteous reign begins to take over the world. The stone cut without human hands has landed. This is good news, the gospel, and calls forth our repentance and faith.

Pastoral Contact: This Sunday we begin the New Testament spring series on the gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are called gospels because they herald “good news.” The New Testament gospel is a royal proclamation about King Jesus and the arrival of the kingdom of God. God’s good news for the world is that God’s Son saves the world. We live in a hurting, broken, divided, and idolatrous world in need of rescue. The gospels present the person, words, and work of Jesus who saves. His salvation provides forgiveness for sins. His salvation creates new life. His salvation produces the fruit of righteousness in lives, families, and society. His salvation comes to change the culture in our city and in our nation. His salvation remakes us into the image of God and empowers us to live as God intended at creation. We invite you to explore the rich resources for the New Testament in *Bible Journey*, Study 4, Course 1. You can view our Wednesday night summary here. We encourage you to read Mark 1:1:15 and prepare your heart for worship.

Rejoicing in the Gospel with you, Pastor David

SCRIPTURE MEMORY:

“Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." **Mark 1:14-15**

WEEK 2: March 14 Pastor David Palmer
Title: “The Kingdom of God is good news for all”
Text: Luke 4:14-30
Theme: The gospel of the kingdom is good news for all. Jesus reveals his identity in Nazareth through the Scripture reading in the synagogue where he grew up. Isaiah 61 proclaims that the year of the Lord’s favor and liberty for the oppressed. Jesus says this promise has come true in him. He emphasizes how Elijah and Elisha were sent to minister to foreigners like the widow of Sidon and Naaman the Syrian. The crowd who hears him reacts with rage.

Pastoral Contact: Jesus reveals his identity and the nature of his ministry with a dramatic Scripture reading in Nazareth where he grew up. Isaiah 61 proclaims that the year of the Lord’s favor and liberty for the oppressed. Jesus says this promise has come true in him. He emphasizes how Elijah and Elisha were sent to minister to foreigners like the widow of Sidon and Naaman the Syrian. The crowd who hears him reacts with rage and even tries to kill him. The gospel of the kingdom is indeed good news for all. Sometimes the scope of God’s saving mission seems scandalous or even outrageous. We invite you to explore the rich resources for the New Testament in *Bible Journey*, Study 4, Course 2, *The Ministry of Jesus*. You can view our Wednesday night summary [here](#). We encourage you to read Luke 4:14-30 and prepare your heart for worship.

Rejoicing in the Gospel with you, Pastor David

SCRIPTURE MEMORY:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” **Luke 4:18-19**

WEEK 3: March 21 Pastor Scott Burns
Title: “The Kingdom of God is like...”
Text: Matthew 13:44-52
Theme: The kingdom of God is like a treasure hidden in a field, a pearl of great price, and a net gathering a mixed catch that the angels will sort out at the end. When we stumble across it, we give our all to obtain it. When we see it, its value surpasses all others. When we are swept up into it, we are captured for the master’s use.

Pastoral Contact: Jesus often uses parables to describe the kingdom of God. In Matthew 13, he describes how the kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field, a pearl of great price, and a net

gathering a mixed catch that the angels will sort out at the end. When we stumble across it, we give our all to obtain it. When we see it, its value surpasses all others. When we are swept up into it, we are captured for the master's use. Those who listen attentively to Jesus are likened to a master of the house who brings out treasure that is new and old. They understand, live out, and are able to share the way of the kingdom with others. We invite you to explore the rich resources for the New Testament in *Bible Journey*, Study 4, Course 3, *The Teaching of Jesus*. You can view our Wednesday night summary here. We encourage you to read Matthew 13:44-52 and prepare your heart for worship.

Rejoicing in the Gospel with you, Pastor David

SCRIPTURE MEMORY:

“Therefore, every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” **Matthew 13:52**

WEEK 4: March 28 Pastor David Palmer (Palm Sunday)
 Title: “The King is Celebrated”
 Text: Luke 19:28-48
 Theme: Jesus, the King of the kingdom of God is celebrated as we begin Holy Week in Jerusalem.

Pastoral Contact: All four of the gospel writers describe Jesus' dramatic public entrance into the Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. He acts with great intentionality to fulfill the prophetic vision of restoration. Jesus enters the city riding upon a donkey and publicly identifies himself as king. The crowds recognize the imagery and rejoice. They wave palm branches as symbols of victory and shout: “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” When some of the religious leaders rebuke the crowds, Jesus replies: “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out” (Luke 19:40). When Jesus approaches Jerusalem, he weeps over the city knowing all that must soon take place there. As he teaches openly in the Temple courts, “the people were hanging on his words” (Luke 19:48). We invite you to explore the rich resources for the New Testament in *Bible Journey*, Study 4, Course 4, *The Passion of Christ*. You can view our Wednesday night summary here. We encourage you to read Luke 19:28-48 and prepare your heart for worship.

Rejoicing in the Gospel with you, Pastor David

SCRIPTURE MEMORY:

“I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.” **Luke 19:40**

John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

WEEK 4: April 2 Good Friday service at 7:00 PM (Communion)
 Title: “The King is Sacrificed”
 Text: John 17, 18, 19, John 3:16-17
 Theme: Jesus, the King of the kingdom of God is celebrated as we begin Holy Week in Jerusalem.

Pastoral Contact: After celebrating the Passover, Jesus seeks intimate communion with the Father just prior to his crucifixion in high priestly prayer (John 17). He journeys to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. He takes Peter, James, and John close to him as he begins to pray. His soul is in deep anguish as he contemplates the task before him. He holds in his hands the full cup of God’s wrath against the sin of the world (Jer. 25:15-16). It is a staggering moment in God’s plan of redemption. Jesus prays: “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done” (Luke 22:42). Jesus will approach the cross in perfect obedience to the Father. It is God’s will to crush him (Isa 53:10). His death will crush the head of the serpent (Gen 3:15). Forgiveness of sin is impossible without the shedding of blood (Heb 9:22). Only God can bear the full weight of sin. Only man needs to be redeemed. Only Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, could fulfill the mission for which he had been sent. God’s Son saves the world (John 3:16).

Rejoicing in the Gospel with you, Pastor David

SCRIPTURE MEMORY:

John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

WEEK 5: April 4 Pastor David Palmer (Easter Sunday)
 Title: “The King is Risen”
 Text: Luke 24:1-16
 Theme: Jesus, the King of the kingdom of God is risen from the dead and triumphs over sin, death, and hell. Hallelujah! He is alive!

Pastoral Contact: All four of the gospel writers take us to the empty tomb on Easter Sunday. Early at the dawn of the first day of the week, the King's atoning sacrifice for our sin has been accepted. The power of sin, death, and hell has been broken forever and the new creation has begun. The world will never be the same. The stone cut without human hands has struck the principalities and powers. The kingdoms of this world begin to topple. The everlasting reign of the Son of God cannot be suppressed. No power of hell, no scheme of man can prevail against his sovereign design to save. God's Son saves the world. Hallelujah! We invite you to complete the rich resources for the New Testament in *Bible Journey*, Study 4, Course 4, *The Passion of Christ*. You can view our Wednesday night summary here. We encourage you to read Luke 24:1-16 and prepare your heart for worship.

Rejoicing in the Gospel with you, Pastor David

SCRIPTURE MEMORY:

John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

WEEK 6:	April 11	Pastor Scott Burns (Communion)
	Title:	“The King saves the fearful”
	Text:	Mark 14:38-52
	Theme:	Jesus, the King of the kingdom of God saves the fearful and brings them to faith.

Pastoral Contact: In the final weeks of our series on the gospels, we will focus on how each gospel writer highlights the saving mission of Jesus in their own lives. This Sunday, we concentrate on the Gospel of Mark. Mark was from Jerusalem, probably from a wealthy family. Scholars believe that it was in his home that Jesus celebrated the Last Supper. When Jesus was arrested, Mark became terrified and fled. He found new faith in Jesus who saves the fearful and leads them to fearless obedience in sharing Christ with others. We invite you to explore the rich resources for the New Testament in *Bible Journey*, Study 4, Course 5 *The Gospel of Mark*. You can view our Wednesday night summary here. We encourage you to read Mark 14:38-52 and prepare your heart for worship.

Rejoicing in the Gospel with you, Pastor David

SCRIPTURE MEMORY:

“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.” **Mark 16:15**

John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

WEEK 7: April 18 Pastor David Palmer
 Title: “The King saves the sick”
 Text: Matthew 9:9-13
 Theme: Jesus, the King of the kingdom of God saves the sick and brings healing for those who need it most.

Pastoral Contact: In the final weeks of our series on the gospels, we are focusing on how each gospel writer highlights the saving mission of Jesus in their own lives. This Sunday, we concentrate on the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew, also called Levi, was a man who knew the Scriptures well. He also knew how this world well and worked as a tax collector. Jesus interrupted his life and called him to follow. Matthew left all he had known and began to follow Jesus. He threw a great feast for Jesus in his home, causing quite a stir. Jesus responded with the memorable line that “those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.” Jesus the King came to save the sick. We invite you to explore the rich resources for the New Testament in *Bible Journey*, Study 4, Course 6 *The Gospel of Matthew*. You can view our Wednesday night summary here. We encourage you to read Matthew 9:9-13 and prepare your heart for worship.

Rejoicing in the Gospel with you, Pastor David

SCRIPTURE MEMORY:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” **Matthew 28:18-20**

John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

WEEK 8: April 25 Pastor David Palmer
 Title: “The King saves the lost”
 Text: Luke 1:1-4
 Theme: Jesus, the King of the kingdom of God saves the lost and causes
 them to be found in Him.

Pastoral Contact: In the final weeks of our series on the gospels, we are focusing on how each gospel writer highlights the saving mission of Jesus in their own lives. This Sunday, we concentrate on the Gospel of Luke. Luke is the only pagan author in the New Testament. He came to faith in Christ through the missionary ministry of Paul. As a physician and a Roman citizen, Luke had status, prestige, and freedom of access in the Roman world. Yet, he was lost. He was without God in the world. He was without hope. He was in fact separated from the God who had created him. Luke’s gospel is written to allow others to follow the journey he himself has made. He discovers that God’s Son saves the lost. They are found in Jesus. We invite you to explore the rich resources for the New Testament in *Bible Journey*, Study 4, Course 7 *The Gospel of Matthew*. You can view our Wednesday night summary [here](#). We encourage you to read Luke 1:1-4 and Luke 15 to prepare your heart for worship.

Rejoicing in the Gospel with you, Pastor David

SCRIPTURE MEMORY:

“It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.” **Luke 15:32**

John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”