

## NEW CITY DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WEEK OF 8/31/2020-9/4/2020

The following content is based on the message on 8/30/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

### MONDAY // THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

**Read Matthew 7:28-29.** Jesus has authority over all things. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus revealed authority over many things — including demons, diseases, and over creation. Ultimately, Jesus shows His authority through forgiving sins. Jesus brings the kingdom of God to bear. It isn't a kingdom that is far off. The kingdom is here and now — meaning, we should live as citizens of his kingdom right now.

**Everything is subject to the authority of God.**

- *What are some ways that you have seen the authority of God work in your life even in difficult times?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes or more. Reflect on the authority of God. How does God's authority comfort you?*

### TUESDAY // ORDER THROUGH LOVE

**Read Mark 12:28-31.** Jesus comes to earth to bring order to it. How does He plan to do that? Through love. Jesus showed His love to us by giving Himself for us. He gave His life because He loves us unconditionally. Jesus invites us to experience His love. But then, God goes further. He doesn't want us to just experience His love, He wants our love to be experienced by others. Jesus plans to change the world through love.

**As a Christian, you cannot divorce your heart from your head.**

- *In what ways is the love of Jesus so counter-cultural? How will His love change the world?*
- *In order to truly love others with the love of God, then we must understand that God loves us personally. Set a timer for two minutes or more. Reflect on what God did to show you that He loves you.*

### WEDNESDAY // BEARING EACH OTHER'S BURDENS

**Read Galatians 6:1-5.** Part of the way that Jesus calls us to love in His kingdom is through bearing the burdens of others. You may feel like you are already bearing too many burdens, so you don't feel like you are able to bear any more. But this means that we need to lovingly talk and listen to each other. Wherever you are today, there are people in the kingdom of God that want to lovingly hear from you.

**Kingdom love is a love that bears the burdens of others.**

- *How have you experienced someone else bearing a burden that you were caring? How did you feel loved by that action?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes or more. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how He wants you to bear someone else's burden.*

### THURSDAY // SAY, HEAR, AND DO

From the beginning, God has called each of us to be responsible for the world. He invites us to be part of His mission to bring the kingdom of God to the world. In the Old Testament, God asked His people to “learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause” (Isaiah 1:17). In the New Testament Jesus calls each of us to act as a citizen of the kingdom. **Read Matthew 7:24-25.**

**We will say, hear, and do — because that brings the Kingdom of God to the world.**

- *When you look at the three elements that we want to focus on at New City—say, hear, and do—which one of those have you felt like the Church in America has lacked?*
- *Most of the time we stop short of doing what God wants us to do. God is a god of action. Set a timer for two minutes or more. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you about what God wants you to do for Him.*

### FRIDAY // THE KINGDOM IS HERE

**Read Matthew 28:18-20.** The kingdom of God is present through the authority of Jesus. The kingdom is here now. As citizens of the kingdom, we are called to hear from God, speak His truth, and do the works that He calls us to do. When we live in this way, the kingdom of God becomes visible to the world around us.

**Jesus is the hope of the world and we get to be witnesses to the kingdom of God.**

- *How are you hopeful in the authority of Jesus in the kingdom of God? What specific things give you hope?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes or more. Building off yesterday's time of silence with Jesus, spend some time reflecting on how God is telling you to take action as a citizen of the kingdom.*