

STUDY NOTES

THE WAY AND THE WORDS OF JESUS A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “The Violent Kingdom” on 2/25/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 11:1-19 *(Read Throughout)*

“ARE YOU THE ONE THAT IS TO COME?”

Read Matt. 11:1-11. Prophets proclaim the goodness of God, often call to repent and turn back to him. John was not just any prophet but the last in a series of prophets who prepared the way for Messiah and brought the old covenant era to its culmination. Even John had his doubts about Jesus because the Kingdom didn't look like he had hoped it would.

- *What has been your experience with doubting Jesus or with doubting your faith?*

WHERE IS YOUR CITIZENSHIP?

Read Matt. 11:12-15. John proclaimed the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He proclaimed the Kingdom coming to earth as Jesus! But these messages were being attacked rather than universally welcomed. Opposition should not deter would-be disciples, for God's predicted scenario is unfolding according to plan.

Entering the Kingdom of God is a violent act.

- *How is entering the Kingdom a spiritually violent act?*

REMEMBER THE KINGDOM OF WHICH YOU ARE A PART

Read Matt. 11:16-19. Because we face so much opposition from people, it can be hard not to get jaded at them. But don't get too upset, because we really battle against dark forces, not against flesh and blood.

- *What sort of opposition have you faced as a follower of Jesus?*
- *How can you discern whether the opposition that you face is from being a follower of Jesus or from being rude?*

We, as God's people, win the overall battle because Jesus won that battle for us, but it may not necessarily mean that you win the battle that you are fighting. Jesus didn't free John from the physical prison that he was in. Jesus freed John from the spiritual prison that he was in.

- *In what ways, has Jesus called you to something that didn't make sense in the lens of an earthly kingdom?*
- *How do you find peace in your heart choosing Kingdom living when facing criticism from the world?*
- *Pray with each other for strength to choose Kingdom living*