

**Encounter these verses today:**

*circle words that you identify with, underline phrases or sentences you'd like to remember, write questions about the passage out to the side ...*



**Exodus 19:3-6 [NIV]**

<sup>3</sup> Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup> 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> you [a] will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

**Matthew 6:9-13 [NIV]**

<sup>44</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

<sup>45</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup>When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

**Romans 14:17--18 [NIV]**

<sup>17</sup>For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, <sup>18</sup>because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.



**Let's getting thinking ...**

*What is your most treasured possession? What makes it so valuable to you? Would others share your assessment of its value?*

**Counting the Costs ...**

Forgiveness through faith in Jesus =  
Experiencing the Kingdom of God now =

**What could it cost you ...**

- reputation
- hair color/style
- pool/nice house
- social standing
- close friendships
- career fast track
- clothing labels
- 401k/403b/etc
- family
- 
- 

**What has it cost you ...**

**Clear it up ...**

*What is the Kingdom of God? What does it look like?* [Romans 14:17]

**Welcome Craig Manes**

*Associate Director of Admissions for Church Relations*



cmanes@olivet.edu | www.olivet.edu

**The Bottom Line ...**

We need to treat the Kingdom of God like it's our most \_\_\_\_\_ possession because God considers \_\_\_\_\_ His most treasured possession!

[Exodus 19:3-6]



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# Digging Deeper | 2010

[April 26 - May 1]

## Monday: 4.26.2010

**Reading:** Romans 14:9-21

Let's start our week out by looking back at a section of scripture used on Sunday morning. This reading is more expanded than Terry used and helps us see more clearly what Paul was saying as he described what the Kingdom of God is ... and what it is not!

**Think about it:**

Are you able to look beyond the "do's" and "don'ts" and see the Kingdom as a place where righteousness, peace and joy rule? What makes this a challenge for you?

**Reflections:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Tuesday: 4.27.2010

**Reading:** Matthew 19:16-26

The encounter with the Rich Ruler in today's reading has tripped up many who have come to believe that following God is about following the rules. Following the ways of God means that we are holding on to nothing outside of Him.

**Think about it:**

Would you be willing to listen to Jesus' teaching that day and follow through with His request? Or would you be more like the Rich Ruler who couldn't see beyond his own kingdom (his "great wealth"). Why do you think that?

**Reflections:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Wednesday: 4.28.2010

**Reading:** Luke 13:22-30

I wish understanding the Kingdom of God was easier. I wish the wider door was used. But it's not and it wasn't. Imagine, going to a friend's house and being shut out. Even more, have that person say they don't know you at all.

**Think about it:**

How could this happen? Imagine the circumstances that this story from Jesus would be true. Now, see if it's happening in your spiritual walk, as well.

**Reflections:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Thursday: 4.29.2010

**Reading:** Luke 10:25-37

We would expect an expert of the law to not only know the law, but practice it routinely. In this case, Jesus is confronted with one who knew all the right answers but was having a disconnect in living it out.

**Think about it:**

Have you been a good neighbor recently? Have you gone above and beyond for someone you naturally wouldn't reach out to? Have you missed an opportunity to do so?

**Reflections:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Friday: 4.30.2010

**Reading:** Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

As we consider if we are experiencing the Kingdom of God in our present age, we must also consider the fact that weeds are growing next to us. In our parable today, the weeds are allowed to grow but thrown out at the end of time.

**Think about it:**

How does this understanding of the Kingdom of God help you get through this week? Can anything be done about the weeds?

**Reflections:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Saturday: 5.01.2010

**Reading:** Matthew 25:1-13

As we conclude this week of Growing Deeper, I'm struck by the call to be watching and ready. I wonder if sometimes we miss the Kingdom of God in our life because we aren't paying attention to what is going on around us. The signs - yes ... but the pain and sadness, too. All the virgins woke at the right time, but only half of them were ready to enter into the banquet.

**Think about it:**

The Kingdom is here. The Kingdom is now. The Kingdom is within you! Are you ready to experience the Kingdom in your life?

**Reflections:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_