

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 ...*



1 Corinthians 4:20 [The Message Paraphrase]

¹⁸⁻²⁰I know there are some among you who are so full of themselves they never listen to anyone, let alone me. They don't think I'll ever show up in person. But I'll be there sooner than you think, God willing, and then we'll see if they're full of anything but hot air. God's Way is not a matter of mere talk; it's an empowered life.

James 1:19-27 [NIV]

¹⁹My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

²¹Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

²⁶If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

²⁷Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.



Let's getting thinking ...

Has there been a time when you felt that God was clearly working directly in your life?

How about a time when you felt that God was using you to do His work in the life of someone else?

Let Your Kingdom Come!

What are some practical ways you can experience God's Kingdom in your life?

The Bottom Line ...

God's Way is not a matter of mere talk;
it's an _____ life.

[1 Corinthians 4:20 - The Message]



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Digging Deeper | 2010

[May 3 - May 8]

Monday: 5.03.2010

Reading: Matthew 6:9-13

Our week begins with the Lord's Prayer. Take your time on this reading and really make each phrase or line be personal to your life today. When you say "Your kingdom come ..." ask God to reveal what that might look like for this day ... this week.

Think about it:

Have you ever recited something so often that you've forgotten its meaning and purpose?

Pray for: *Directory families Adams - Bacon*

Reflections: _____

Tuesday: 5.04.2010

Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

This glimpse of God's Kingdom involves both present and future. Our access to the future kingdom appears to depend on how we respond to the opportunity to experience the present kingdom right now.

Think about it:

Forgiveness is free. But shouldn't that gift of a new start also motivate us to do whatever it takes experience His kingdom every day?

Pray for: *Directory families Baragwanath - Bate*

Reflections: _____

Wednesday: 5.05.2010

Reading: Luke 12:22-33a

Whenever we discuss spiritual awareness, I think people begin to worry. What if I don't get it? What if I'm on the outside looking in? What if I give everything away and I'm left with nothing?

Think about it:

How can you be more like the ravens and lilies of today's reading? Do you need to trust in God's provision in a certain area of your life today?

Pray for: *Directory families Beamer - Brelinski*

Reflections: _____

Thursday: 5.06.2010

Reading: Matthew 25: 14-30

I'm not sure this is a story of wealth or investments. As it relates to God's Kingdom, I believe it tells us that each of us have been given an opportunity to work in God's present kingdom. Are we directing our talents toward the work of God today?

Think about it:

Do you know that God has given you talents and gifts? He has blessed everyone with special abilities! How can you use your talents for His kingdom?

Pray for: *Directory families Breznau - Burba*

Reflections: _____

Friday: 5.07.2010

Reading: Matthew 13:31-32

I love mustard! A hotdog is not complete without it (oh ya, and relish, of course). Everyone knows about mustard ... but have you ever seen a mustard seed? It's tiny. Yet, as the plant grows from that tiny seed, it grows into a strong and mighty tree in the garden. It's too cool how God can turn your smallest activities into mighty acts of God!

Think about it:

What small act of kindness can you offer someone this weekend that could turn into a giant act of God?

Pray for: *Directory families Campbell - Christiansen*

Reflections: _____

Saturday: 5.08.2010

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

It's Mother's Day Weekend! How can you appreciate the love your mother gave to you? How can you be an influencer of love toward those around you? Let's make this weekend about love and compassion and all that is good.

Think about it:

Love is a lot things. Who is the greatest influence in your life in the area of love ... let them know how you feel if you can.

Pray for: *Directory families Christopher - Coolich*

Reflections: _____

