



*The Journey*  
Week of 11.23.14

## Arrows Out: Kingdom Come

By Michael Maybee

I don't know about you, but I kind of wish Jesus had spelled it out plainly for us when He talked about the Kingdom of Heaven/Kingdom of God. But instead everything He taught on it was in the form of a parable. Do you, like me, still have questions? Some of my questions are: What is our part in the coming Kingdom? Can anything we do (or not do) affect the timing of its coming? If it is near, how near? What are we supposed to do while we are waiting? I bet you have some questions of your own.

That last question is a big part of what our current sermon series, "Arrows Out," is all about. I loved the stories Dan shared of other people who definitely have their arrows out. I think those stories, and others like them reveal a little of what it means for God's Kingdom to come as well as answering the "what are we supposed to be doing" question.

The Bible tells us that God is patient, "not wanting anyone to perish..." ([2 Peter 3:9](#)) It is God's will and purpose that everyone accept His invitation into His Kingdom. And lucky us, we get to help carry that message. We get to reveal that part of God's will and purpose to those around us. One way of pointing our arrows out is to extend the invitation on his behalf. And also lucky for us, He makes it really clear in Scripture that the outcome is not up to us. We are not responsible for the results, only for faithfully carrying the message.

So what else are we supposed to do while we wait for God's Kingdom? Well, if we have our arrows out, we will do our best to reveal God's nature to the world around us. How do we do that? First and foremost, we let His love flow through us. That was so important that Jesus placed it as a close second to loving God himself. Loving the way God wants us to love is not about warm and fuzzy feelings. It's about action. He even spells it out, telling us, "...let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." ([1 John 3:18](#)) What else of His nature can we reveal? Well, I suggest His mercy, grace, truth, and justice just to name a few.

Jesus came to give us a glimpse of the glory of God's Kingdom and to reveal God's grace and truth ([John 1:14](#)). And He wants that glory to shine into this dark world ([Matthew 5:15-16](#)). He gave us His Holy Spirit to live in us so that we can reveal His glory to the world. What does it mean when we pray, "Your kingdom come..."? It means that we live our lives arrows out; in such a way that we reveal "...the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." ([Colossians 1:27](#))

*"With every act of love  
We bring the kingdom come"*

*~ Jason Gray, lyrics to [With Every Act of Love](#)*

(You are encouraged to use the Read, Think, Pray, Live method for a guide. Click [here](#) to read more about developing your devotional life. If you don't own a Bible, pick up "The Story of God" Bible available for free at the Welcome Center in our atrium.)

## monday 11.24

Read: [Luke 14:15-24](#)

**Think:** With whom in this story do you most identify? What excuse would God say you have been giving Him for not "coming to the banquet"? If you have already come into the banquet, are you an active engaged participant, are you just there for benefits, or are you a "wallflower" hanging back and not really participating? Now put yourself in the role of the servant. How will you "...compel them to come in..."?

**Pray:** God, thank you for inviting me to your banquet. Empower me to faithfully and lovingly invite others to join the party.

**Live:**

## tuesday 11.25

Read: [Matthew 13:31-33](#)

**Think:** What was Jesus telling us about God's Kingdom with these two illustrations? In Mark's gospel, it describes the mustard plant as a shelter, where "the birds can perch in its shade." How is the Kingdom of God, fully revealed in our individual lives, like that fully grown mustard plant? What "birds" can you help find shelter in God's kingdom?

**Pray:** God, please help the "yeast" of your kingdom spread throughout my entire life.

**Live:**

## wednesday 11.26

Read: [Mark 4:26-29, 1 Corinthians 3:5-7](#)

**Think:** How does Paul describe himself and Apollos in these passages? What does that tell you about your role in God's "kingdom come"? How can you plant "seed" and what does living "Arrows Out" have to do with "watering"?

**Pray:.**

**Live:**

## thursday 11.27

Read: [Matthew 13:44-46, Matthew 10:37-39](#)

**Think:** What are some things that people value more than God's kingdom? Many commentators say that a person's calendar and checkbook reveal more about how they value God's kingdom than anything else. What do yours reveal?

**Pray: .**

**Live:**

## friday-sunday 11.28-11.30

Read: [Matthew 5:13-16, 1 Peter 2:11-12](#)

**Think:** What might be acting as a “bowl” and blocking the light of God’s kingdom in you? How could you put that light on a stand for all to see? What would non-believers see in your life that would attract them and might cause them to glorify God—to seek His kingdom come?

**Pray:**

**Live:**

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