

## WE BELIEVE IN GOD FOR EVERYTHING

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Church  
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Kingdom of God, Disappointment, Hope  
Matthew 6:33

So many times people ask when we actually start our celebration here on Sunday. And some people keep saying it is 10:15. No, actually we start at 10 am. The first 15 minutes for tea and coffee are an important part of our worshipping together as a community. So if anyone asks how worship at the church starts, tell them it starts with a cup of coffee or tea.

Now if you have paid attention at the coffee area the counter has a board that says a bunch of stuff about Trinity Vineyard. One of the things it says is that We Trust God for everything. We are in a series of talks about who we are, who God is calling us to be and where God is sending us to. We are taking a look at our DNA and how it expresses itself in who we are becoming. And one of the important things for us is that we are a church of the Kingdom of God. And to be a church of the Kingdom of God is to Trust God for Everything.

So I am going to pray as we start off our conversation but if you forget anything, remember this, we trust God for everything.

### **Let's pray.**

Jesus when teaching one day he told his disciples this

***Seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness and all other things will be added to you***

We would like to be a church where people find God. I strongly believe that life was meant to be lived within the purposes and calling of God our father. And I think God is pursuing all of humanity. He is inviting all into His Kingdom and we want to be the kind of church that is marked with that. The Kind of church where people find God. A church of the Kingdom of God.

So we take seriously Jesus' invitation to seek first the Kingdom of God and God's righteousness and all things shall be added.

But what is the Kingdom of God? The Kingdom of God is not about a physical place. Our hope here at Trinity is not about going to a physical place. Sometimes when people talk about the Kingdom of God they are talking about a place they will one day go to. At Trinity when we talk about the Kingdom of God we mean the rule, the reign.

And his reign comes with His justice. His reign comes with His life which is one of peace, and wholeness, no sickness, no pain, no tears, forgiveness, no death. His reign comes with his power, the power over darkness and sin.

So it is any place and anytime that God is reigning. It is not the place that matters but who is in charge is what matters and whose presence is felt and who are people submitted to.

So for us seeking first the Kingdom of God is to desire to see everything around us joyfully submitted to the reign of Jesus. We wanna be a church that will fully submit ourselves to God. Our work, our families, our relationships. Everything submitted to him and to be a church of the Kingdom which is to be a church that will trust him for EVERYTHING.

To seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness means

## **1. We will seek God's justice here on the earth.**

When we pray God your Kingdom come here on the earth as it is in heaven it includes the justice of God's Kingdom. You see, the thing about a King is that he is the final Judge. He sets down the rules of how things should go in his Kingdom. He sets out how life will be lived. Actually in the Bible in some places when they would talk about the coming of God or the Kingdom of God they would talk about Him coming to Judge the Earth.

Now over time, the idea of God's judgement has been used exclusively to mean something to be fearful about. A judge sets things right. True justice is served when the oppressed is set free from the oppressor and what was taken away is restored.

And if this is the picture of God's justice then I bet it is why none of the Psalms, the psalmist says that all the earth should rejoice and be glad for God is coming to judge the earth. Because the earth and all in it has suffered under the oppression and bondage of sin and the enemy, behold God is coming to set things right.

So When Jesus, who is the King of the Kingdom shows up to the scene this is what He said

***"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me***

***he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor,  
Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and  
recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set the burdened and battered free,  
to announce, "This is God's year to act!"***

This was a declaration that God's Kingdom coming down in the power of the Holy Spirit comes also with justice. It was God's Year to Act.

To be a church of the Kingdom means to not only pray for Justice but to say no to injustice, to speak against injustice and actively seek justice. To step into every day declaring that this is the Year God's year to act and be ready for God to use us when He acts against all injustices; spiritual, political, economic, social all of it.

And to be a church of the Kingdom we will long to have his heart formed inside us. His Mercy and Compassion will Move us to action because This Is the Year for God to Act.

That when we see the broken and oppressed, those treated at least in our society. The orphan and the widow, the least tribe and the neglected race, the stranger and the unwanted. In God's Mercy and Compassion, we will be moved to action, because God's Kingdom is God's Justice and this is the Year for God to Act.

The good news we will speak of has to be good news to the poor. We acknowledge that the brokenness of people coupled with the powers of darkness will produce systems that will disenfranchise others. And God's Kingdom breaking through means bringing justice to the poor. This is Good news.

So we will seek to not occasionally and from emotionally be generous but to live out our life as a church generously in order to be part of seeing Justice move to those treated unjustly. We will seek not to just be generous with our money but with our time and ourselves too. We wanna be in relationship with those who are disenfranchised because above all things they are people loved by God.

We long to see this happen both individually and corporately. So we celebrate our relationship with some of you who run organizations that long to see those who have been disenfranchised receive mercy. We celebrate those of you who in small ways volunteer their time to serve the poor, the hungry, the weak. We celebrate those of you who buy a bag of food or a soda at the back so that one family can have a meal. We celebrate those of you who donate even very little to see someone else get to a better place. We celebrate those of

you making sure you visit the least in our societies because it is more than just giving it is seeking relationship. Because it is in these relationships that we will meet Jesus.

Sometimes people say that it does not make economic sense to help the poor. Some people think we should not speak for the justice of certain groups of people because of how they look or how they live their lives. They should have worked harder. Or well it is not our fault that they are where they are. Or that we do not have enough ourselves. But to be a Kingdom church means to Trust God for everything. Including provision for us, the complete changing of their situation. We will not let fear keep us from standing for justice.

And so as a community, we choose to not look away from the poor, we choose to stand against racism, tribalism, sexism and injustice of any kind. We choose to stand against greed and corruption. Because to be a church of the Kingdom is, to be a church that longs to see and be part of God's justice come to the world.

## **2. Love the Whole Body of Christ**

To be a church of the Kingdom means we will Love the whole Body of Christ We don't for second think that we are the Kingdom of God. In fact, we recognize that we are only a very small part of what God is doing in Nakuru. We do not for a second think that we are the only expression God's Kingdom.

Just like God moves here in his power and out of His Grace and Generosity and Great love for everyone who gathers here. We strongly believe that God is at work everywhere his people gather, we are certain He is moving in other places too and we bless and celebrate that.

We have no business tearing other churches down because there is no other church, there is only one church and that is the universal body of Christ with very many members and expressions. So we do not stand in opposition to other churches in our city, instead, we stand with them.

We long to see the beautiful treasures that God has put in them and long to share in those while we welcome them to also come to our table and take what they need and leave what they do not. We wanna be a church that will love the whole body of Christ and watch God work in and through them just as he works in and through us.

So we bless the Catholic Church next to us, we bless the evangelical church that is up the street from us. We bless the Anglican Church in the town centre. We bless the entire body of

Christ. If any people gather to genuinely and passionately pursue Jesus rather be found by Jesus, we are for them in their beauty and brokenness.

So that means when you come here we do not seek to make you a member of the Vineyard church. We do not seek to have you denounce the church you come from. All we want to do is faithfully journey with you towards Jesus. The kingdom of God is more important than any one church and so we trust Him with everything.

Sometimes people have asked if really we mean the entire body of Christ. Can we really bless that church? And that church? Even them? Yes. Even them. To be a Kingdom church is to trust God for everything. To trust that even in what looks like a mess to us, God is right at the centre of it and through His Spirit making all things new. Because he has been doing that from the beginning of the church.

### **3. Long to see God's Power**

The Kingdom of God is the reign and power of God. We believe God has power over the natural world and over the spiritual world. And we seek to see his power displayed in all that. So we make bold prayers and wait to see God move.

We pray for healing for cancer as much as pray for healing of the Soul and a broken heart. We pray for healing mental illness just as much as we pray that we will see Jesus in heaven. We will not be comfortable in the life that requires no faith from us

One Sunday morning praying over someone who had just seen our church and decided to walk in. She had chest pains when she would breathe in. And we prayed for her with expectation that she would get better so in between the prayer we would ask her how she was feeling. Whether the pain was still there or if it had decreased or left completely. Why? We believe in God's power breaking through. She begins to shed tears as she took in breath deeper. Those are the kind of risks we are willing to take.

I saw a joke that for some people when you share what is going on with you they say something like, "I will pray for you" and that statement is the closest to a prayer you will ever get from them. Because sometimes people are baited to live very faithless lives and we only pray over things that require no show of faith from us.

Some people would only say a prayer before a meal because after all they have had their meals made by their spouses for decades and they have never been poisoned yet so there is no need to show faith.

Some only pray for Journey mercies. Well because they have taken that bus for decades going to Nairobi and they have always been safe so really they are expecting to still be safe and have no need to show faith there.

Some only pray for colds because they have always had a cold at the same time of the year and with a few home remedies they will get over it, but surely do not need to show any faith there.

Now, I am not saying that these are not important things to pray about yet I am inviting us to be a community that will really expect God to move. Both in the small things and in the big things. To be a people who will seek to see the power of God displayed. A people ready to make very bold prayer, to live very bold lives.

This is why we worship passionately here. We are genuinely expecting God to move. During our gatherings when we worship some of us will be seated, some standing, some journaling at the back, some singing out loud, some quiet. Whatever the expression will be, we will be in a posture of longing and expectation. The songs will be more than lyrics instead we will long to hear the voice of Jesus speak to us. We will have our eyes open, watching and waiting.

Some Sundays we will all be aware of it. Last week, the worship team got back on stage and it almost felt like they had just started. For those of you who wonder what is going on during our worship, that is the power of God. And we long for more of it.

Some Sundays, we will not be aware of it. And it's okay. It is not us we are worshipping it is God and we do not worship to be rewarded we worship to express our love to Him. Yet even those Sundays when we will not be aware, one thing will remain passionate as we worship in expectation.

We will not lose the wonder of God. We readily expect God to move in miraculous ways and in subtle naturally supernatural ways. We pray boldly and wait to see God's Kingdom breakthrough in the present even as we wait for the final fulfillment of it all at the return of Jesus where everything will be set right completely.

To be a Kingdom church means that we will trust God for everything. To trust God for everything means that we will be a church so full of Hope.

## **Disappointed**

But how do people loose wonder? How do people stop expecting? How do people end up relegating faith to just a Sunday thing that plays no active role in their lives? They lose Hope. They become Disappointed.

The wound of disappointment creates cynicism. And after a while, we just stop expecting God to move and we stop living bold lives. Let me paint for you the picture of disappointment. As you'd expect we must have UK reference in a season. So here goes.

Disappointment is what Arsenal fans feel when they are such a big and respected club and the last time they won the English Premier League is 16 years ago and has never won the Champions League. You see every season, they hope that would be the year. But the fans are so loyal.

Unfortunately, sometimes believers allow the wound of disappointment to fester. When you have prayed for years for a child and nothing. When you have waited for healing for years. When you have prayed for people and they did not get better. Let us just be honest some of us are pretty disappointed with God and we carry it around. But because we are good Christians we keep up the face while deciding to live without faith at all.

I wanna tell you a story about Jacob. Jacob is one of the forefathers of the nation of Israel. Actually, the nation is named after him. This was a nation, and therefore he was a man, chosen by God through whom the works of God would be displayed to the rest of the world and God would deliver all of humanity. He got an opportunity to stand before Pharaoh who at that time was the most powerful King in the known world. Think of the most powerful government in the world and the leader of that government, Jacob had the opportunity to stand before him and this was the conversation.

Genesis 47:8-9

***Pharaoh asked Jacob, "How old are you?"***

***Jacob said, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage."***

Does anyone notice the problem here? Jacob is full of disappointment.

For the man who was chosen over his brother even though it was his brother's birthright, is this all you have to say?

For someone who had been taken advantage of for 14 years while working for his uncle and even while that was happening God's hand was on him that everything he touched flourished; is this all you have to say?

For someone who had met with God face to face and did not die. Had a confrontation with him and God blessed him and changed his name; Is this all you have to say?

For someone who had 2 wives and in his lifetime he had seen some of the promises God made to him fulfilled, he had seen some of the promises made to his father and grandfather fulfilled in his time; Is this all you have to say?

For someone who had seen God do wonderful things, what do you have to say?

Now is he not just being honest about the situation? You know as a community we really do not like hype. Even when we pray for people we encourage them to give us very honest feedback. Is the pain still there, has it gone, has it reduced or even has it increased.

But there is a difference between Hype and Hope.

Hype ignores the Whys of reality. People have to pretend everything is okay when it is not. When you meet people and they have lofty church language when really their words are crashing. When they would rather quote scripture than say that they are having a hard time in the marriages when they would rather talk all righteous while ignoring the realities of the struggles with sin or health. That is hype and we are not a big fan of that. We do not tell people that all their prayers will be answered immediately.

Instead of being a church of the Kingdom means we will trust God for everything and trusting God for everything means we will live our lives so full of hope. Hope very different from Hype. Hope is being filled with expectation that God will show up. It is looking at How good God has been in the past and be sure that He is and will be good to us today. It is remembering when he pulled us out of deep waters and knowing that even today He will not let us drown. It is remembering when He healed the sick among us and holding on to that hope to the very last minute even when sometimes we have to say goodbye to people we love.

It is to never lose the wonder of God

And to never lose wonder or expectation id to wait in Hope that one day we will say.



**“O God, You have healed us”**

**“O God, You have set us free”**

**“O how wonderful You have been”**

**“O how wonderful is Your Presence”**

**“O there is nothing You cannot Do”**

The honest truth some of us are living in disappointment. And I want you to know God responds to wonder. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Some of us have been here and needed prayer but you just would never step up because you have been disappointed and cynicism has sickened your heart.

I want you to choose hope. To affirm God’s goodness even when the night seems dark and long.

Some of you have never engaged in worship because you have been disappointed seeing others fully engaged and it seems for you like you are missing something. I invite you to reclaim your wonder and expectation for God.

For some of you, you probably have a memory from when you were a child when you were so sure of God. You could walk into His presence and bask in his glory. You spoke in tongues, you spoke in tongues and prayed for the sick. You were alive. But life has treated you unkindly and you have gradually moved away from that point and for some even walking away from God entirely. I want to invite you back to reclaiming wonder. Reclaiming expectation. Having doubt can be healthy but believing your doubts never is. Why don’t you try again? After all, what you have chosen has offered you no hope anyway.

Let’s Pray