

A First Church Christmas: An Ancient Christmas - Citizens of a Better Kingdom

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10

Questions

1. After several weeks of this Ancient Christmas series, what do you think of it? Were you aware of these passages that point toward Jesus? What is your prediction for a passage or two that might be coming up?
2. Let's pray together that as we live in the Kingdom today, we enjoy the blessings we already have even as we look forward to the fullness of the Kingdom that will eventually arrive. Just as in the Lord's prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come!"
3. **Major point: God's kingdom is greater than any human government. Shaen rattled off quite a few presidential promises that could not be kept. If human government was perfected, it would be a utopia. What are some utopias that you remember from fiction or real life attempts? In each example, why wasn't the utopia successful?**
4. **God's Kingdom is Powerful.** Read Matthew 13:31-33. Now compare that passage to Isaiah 11 and the image of the stump of the Davidic kings leading to a branch with fruit. What are the similarities? What can we conclude about the power of God in establishing His kingdom?
5. Speaking of power, compare the images in Isaiah 11:4 (rod of his mouth, breath of his lips) to Revelation 19:15 (coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword). Do you think these passages are talking about the same time in future events? Why or why not?
6. **God's Kingdom is Peaceful.** Shaen preached, "The problem isn't your desire for peace, your problem is you're looking for peace in all the wrong places." He gave quite a list of ways that we go after peace in a worldly way, trying to find satisfaction in things that don't satisfy. Can you think of a time when you felt a true peace from the Lord? Was it through circumstances or in spite of them? What anxiety or concern do you need to lay down today, so you can rest in the peace of the Kingdom?
7. At the recent Members' Meeting, Shaen spoke quite a bit about Small Groups and how we are like little churches all around the region. If you were there, what were your take-aways from his devotional? Has your small group talked about any ways to serve others this Christmas season? Are your eyes open and looking?
8. Close in prayer together.