

May 1 & 2, 2021

Message: Pastor Doug McCoy

Study: Pastor Doug McCoy

## Seeing and Entering The Kingdom

### I. Announcements & Prayer

- **This Weekend** – We will be worshipping in the building at **5pm Saturday** and **9:20 and 11am Sunday**. You can participate through Facebook Live or [thechurchnextdoor.org](http://thechurchnextdoor.org). You can also stay in your car in the parking lot and listen through 95.3 FM. **Bring a neighbor! Invite a friend!**
- **Radio Show** – The Your Next Step radio show continues **Mon-Fri at 10:30am and 6:30pm on The Word 880 AM and 104.5 FM**. The podcast is also available on our website [yournextstepnow.com](http://yournextstepnow.com) as well as all podcasting services.
- **No More Perfect Marriage Retreat** – Mark your calendar. Mark and Jill Savage, the authors of *No More Perfect Marriages*, will be teaching an amazing retreat right here at The Church Next Door on the weekend of May 21st-23rd. Pre-registration begins this weekend!
- **Ask A Pastor Live** – Pastor Doyle and Pastor Doug will be doing Ask A Pastor live on **610 WTVN May 15<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm**. Listen and call in with a question!
- **National Day of Prayer** – God says, “If My people...will humble themselves and pray...”. We are gathering at Noon-1pm on Thursday, May 6 to do just that. We will join spiritually with believers across our country for this National Day of Prayer, asking God to bless us with revival and healing. Please be a part!

### II. Ice Breaker Questions

1. When was the first time you moved away from your childhood home? How did moving away feel?
2. Tell us about a time when you had a “eureka” moment. (E.g. – seeing a Magic Eye 3-D picture, understanding a joke, solving a puzzle.). How did that moment change the way you saw things?

### III. Bible Study

Read **John 3:3**

**3** *Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, **no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.**”* (NIV)

1. What does Jesus mean when He talks about being “born again” and “seeing the Kingdom of God”? How was Nicodemus not doing these things despite his belief in God and careful keeping of the Law of Moses? What will help us do them today?

Read **Mark 1:14-15** & **Matthew 13:24**

**14** *After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. **15** “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”* (NIV)

**24** Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. (NIV)

2. Jesus describes the Kingdom of God as something that exists in the present time ("has come near", "is like")? When have you seen the Kingdom of God in the present? How would your life change if you could see it more often?

Read **1 Corinthians 15:25-27**

**25** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **26** The last enemy to be destroyed is death. **27** For he "has put everything under his feet."... (NIV)

3. What is Paul telling us about the Kingdom (reign) of God here? How does this encourage you to stand in the Kingdom?

Read **Matthew 6:10**

**10 Set the world right; do what's best** – as above, so below. (The Message)

4. "Set the world right" is The Message's version of "Your kingdom come". Why is that a good description of the Kingdom of God? How does hearing the Kingdom of God described in this way inspire you to contribute to it?

Read **Matthew 13:16-17**

**16** But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. **17** For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. (NIV)

5. How is the ability to see the Kingdom of God a blessing to us today? What responsibilities do we have because we see the Kingdom of God like this? How can we fulfill those responsibilities?

Read **Matthew 22:36-40**

**36** "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

**37** Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' **40** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.'"(NIV)

6. Pastor Doug suggested that Jesus is not just establishing the two greatest commandments here but is trying to tell His opponents that they were not seeing the Kingdom of God correctly. How is Jesus inviting us to see the Kingdom of God correctly today? How willing are we to allow Him to change the way we see things?