



A Kingdom Opportunity

Date: Sunday 9th August

Speaker: Jay Pathak

Key Verses: 1 Peter 3:13-18

Talk Summary:

- Is there a Kingdom opportunity in this time of Covid? An opportunity for reconsidering, re-imagining?
- 1 Peter 3:13-18 encourages us to not fear what others fear, but instead put your trust and your hope in Jesus and worship the King. Other translations would say “Do not call conspiracy what they call conspiracy”.
- The **first opportunity** is – to not do what everyone else is doing. The moment to look different from the world is “Do not be afraid”
- By just not being afraid, people are going to look at you and think “Why are you so different?” and you can say “Because I hope in Jesus”. In that moment, people will be drawn towards the light of Jesus in you, you’ll be different, hope will shine.
- Peter is writing this encouragement to a disempowered church, one that was being killed and tortured, chased down by the government – there was a lot to be afraid of! Yet, in the midst of this Peter says “Do not be afraid. Revere Christ as Lord.”
- “We’re living in a culture right now that wants the Kingdom, without the King.” – Mark Sayers For sickness, poverty, racial inequity to be dealt with. There is no Kingdom without the King. Where will we get the power to do this great work? Where will we find the inspiration?
- We are the church of Jesus Christ and the call of Peter to the early church is to worship the King. Set apart Christ as Lord.
- There are so many Christians that are more formed and disciple by the 24 hour news cycle and the fear, trauma and pain that it brings, than by the scriptures and truth of God.
- The **second opportunity** is to revere Christ, to recognise God’s power and authority, and let that dictate our reality. Worship Him, adore Him, He is more beautiful than we can imagine.

- We cannot bring the power and the presence of the Kingdom without worshipping, adoring and obeying this King Jesus. How are your rhythms of connecting with Jesus going? Spending time with Him is what brings us hope.
- There is an opportunity to worship and find a new place of depth and hope in the presence and the power of Jesus.

Worship

- Why not start your time together with a centring prayer exercise, or some musical worship?
 - More ideas at bvc.so/sgworship or bvc.so/sgprayer

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- What about Jay's message really stood out to you?
- What was it about the passage he shared that really was highlighted for you?
- When you read this passage, what was going on in the lives of the church at the time? (Jay gave us some clues, is there anything else?)
- The word "righteousness" is used, how was that understood in the bible?
 - How did Jesus use the word? (Sermon on the mount)?
 - How do we define it biblically?
- What about the word "hope" - what was their hope based on the passage?
- Imagine yourself being in their situation, how do you think they would have described their hope to those who would kill them no matter what?
 - Do you think it would be easy or hard for them to be gentle and respectful, and continue to be good in their defence? Why not?
- Now apply what you have talked about to yourself, are there ways in the past you have defended your faith, but not had a "good conscience" about it afterwards?
 - What could you have done differently?
 - Do you think of Jesus as your hope now? How might he be your hope in the different struggles or persecution you suffer now?
 - Are you ok with the fact that you will most likely suffer in some way for the gospel?