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From Hayden Campus

Imagine there is no heaven, It is easy if you try, No hell below us, Above us only sky. Imagine all the people, Living for today, Imagine there is no country, It isn't to do, Nothing to kill or die for, And no religion too. Imagine all the people, Living life in Peace, You may say I am a dreamer, But I am not the only one. I hope someday you will join us, And the world will be as one. Imagine no possessions, I wonder if you can. No need for greed or hunger, A brotherhood of man. Imagine all the people, Sharing all the world. You may say I am a dreamer, But I am not the only one. I hope someday you will join us, And the world will live as one.

Anyone recognize those words? Those are the words of John Lennon of a song he wrote called "Imagine" in 1971. And during this time we were 16 years into the Vietnam War – six years after America joined – so obviously the world is – there's a lot going on – there is war, division, there is anger, there is confusion. And on top of all that, the housing market was out of control, inflation was through the roof... Sounds kind of similar to where we are at today, right? And this song in this time served as kind of an anthem for the country, of a time of peace at a time of desiring and looking to something better. And since then, since this song was written – this song has continued to be a sort of an anthem during hard times. As it was in 2001 on the attack on the World Trade Center. This song reemerged and became the light this beacon of hope that one day there is going to be a better time at a better place that we can look forward to. And the hard thing about this song is because it speaks to something that we all desire. In fact every single one of us have an innate desire inside of us for what Lennon is attempting to create or to imagine. Because you think about this – think about this song – no more division – no more killing – no more greed or hunger – peace, brotherhood and unity – who wouldn't want this? In fact this is all inside of us.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 says that God has placed eternity within our hearts. What does that mean? It means, the things that are eternal, the things that are good, things that we have to look forward to – those are all desires that we have. Peace and unity and brotherhood and no division and no killing and no greed and no hunger and all these different things – we desire to have. And Lennon is saying – imagine if that were the case. However, Lennon is taking a very worldly approach to a spiritual reality. He is attempting to imagine a man-made kingdom that operates on man-made strength using man made rules. And he is removing God from that kingdom. So we are starting this new sermon series called "The Greatest." In this series we're looking at a few different things that Scripture says are the greatest – so, – starting out, the greatest kingdom – in that kingdom is a king and in that kingdom, that King gives the greatest commandment. We are going to talk about those things, we are talking about the greatest in the kingdom. Who is the greatest in the kingdom? We're talking about the greatest sacrifice, the greatest victory, and then we will end it with the greatest commission that we were all sent to go and be a part of. We are coming off the coattails of our sermon series "Experiencing God" and we went through seven weeks of understanding what it looks like to experience God in our everyday life. We experience him through circumstances we experience him through prayer We experience him through all of these different areas in our life as he is working all of these all around us at all times, and then we come into this season which I believe is the greatest time of year. Resurrection. The time when we celebrate that. Also, the time when the sun starts poking out of the clouds and it starts getting warmer. Right? And so we're coming up this season and what does it look like to be Kingdom People.

What does it look like to be a part of God's Kingdom – not kingdom of man. And so that is why we are doing this series. So this week specifically we are focusing on the greatest kingdom and the greatest commandment in the kingdom. So going back to the song that Lennon wrote in 1971 – is attempting to create that kingdom. He is attempting to create this place of perfect peace and harmony and unity on earth. And the part about this song that is so attractive is that we all want it. And if we would just put the right person in office, and if we would just have the right policies, and if we would just become energy independent, and if we would just allow the gas prices to come down, or the cost of living to go back to what it was a few years ago, or mask mandates to either go away or tighten up – whatever you believe, or it would just be able to keep our weapons then that kingdom would exist. Right? That is what we need is Kingdom to exist, right?

The kingdom of America – that is what we're fighting for. Is it not? See, I want you to hear me on something, I don't want you guys to go away thinking that guy is not patriotic, he doesn't care about America... I love this country. In fact, I believe that the people that have fought for this country are heroes – and I believe that they should be honored and respected and adorned and valued and looked up to. I mean the people that have served and given up their lives for this country are they not heroes of this country? Can we give it up for those guys... [Gabe leads the congregation in applause for Veterans.] We believe that wholeheartedly. And one of my favorite people I get to see him every Thursday – is one of our security guards on Thursday service, his name is J.D. he is a Vietnam veteran. And I talked to JD actually back here afterwards – after the sermon – and he went... Hey I heard you talking about me during that sermon, I was out in the lobby – what did you say about me? And I said... I said you are one of my favorite people JD... and this guy, he could like crush you with two fingers – I said you are one of my favorite people JD, and that you're a veteran. And I said... But JD this is what I said about you – I said as patriotic as you are, and as much as you love this country, you would rather fight for God's kingdom in this kingdom. He said Absolutely! OK what does it mean to be a part of the greatest kingdom – what does it mean to actually fight for the Kingdom of God – not the kingdom of man, not the kingdom of America, not the kingdom of Gabe, which is so easy for me to build and for me to try to advance all the time. What does it look like for me to put my kingdom aside, the kingdom of America aside, the kingdom of man aside and go God what does it look like to be a part of your Kingdom? What does that look like? What are some things that I can look forward to, what are some things that I can do to be a part of your kingdom.

So, when we talk about God's Kingdom, there is something that we have to understand about what makes God's kingdom – his kingdom. Something that we can look forward to. So when we look forward to this future kingdom that both is now, and is to come – we will talk about that later – but this future kingdom that we get to be a part of for those that have given their life for Jesus People who have given their life Jesus, what do we have to look forward to? So here is my goal today – are you ready – here's my goal for you today. If you are not a follower of Jesus here today if you've never surrendered your life to Jesus and you are not a part of the kingdom of God, I hope you today at least – at the very least – walk out going I want to be a part of that Kingdom. Like, I hope I paint such a compelling vision of this Kingdom that you can be a part of that, you go, I want to be a part of that. And even more than that, I hope that you go, sign me up. – How do I do that? – I am in – I hope that for you today. If you are a part of the kingdom, you have given your life to Jesus here is my hope for you – I hope that you get so excited about what we have to look forward to – that you are like oh my dear Jesus I cannot wait for that. If you don't get excited about the Kingdom of Heaven – then I either did a really really bad job, or you just need to check your pulse or something – or you need to get off your phone – or you need to elbow the person next to you who might be sleeping – because we get to be a part of an amazing Kingdom you guys! This is going to be so exciting – I hope we're going to see. OK. So, here's what we have to understand. What makes God's Kingdom, God's Kingdom? This is going to sound really really obvious, maybe, I don't know? But we

have to start here. What makes God's Kingdom his Kingdom is he is there. This is what is so interesting about when we talk about heaven right, we talk about God's kingdom. If you take all of these things that Lennon suggests... Peace and unity and no more greed and more hunger and brotherhood and no division and all these different things. You take all those good things, but you remove God from it, which Lennon does in the first verse of his song – imagine there is no heaven – right you take all of these good things but remove God. Guess what, these good things don't exist. And even if we were to have all these good things – you take all the good things that you think of in life, and you take all of those things and you put them in one thing, but you remove God – this is not heaven what makes heaven – heaven, or what makes his kingdom – his kingdom – is he is there. And if we look at the redemptive story of Scripture we see from Genesis 2 – or Genesis chapter 3 when it is fallen – all the way to Revelations 21, Revelations 22 – we see this redemptive story being played out. God desiring to be with his people. This is what sets Christianity apart from any other belief system is the God that we serve actually desires to be with us. He is not just this distant God just going you guys stay down there – I am up here – I am so much further away from you. He actually enters into humanity, into our lives, and desires to be a part of us.

So we see in Genesis – God creates this garden, it is beautiful, and he places Adam and Eve there, and it says he walked with them in the cool of the day. He would actually be in relationship with his people. He would come down and he would walk and talk and interact with men. Now we see that in Genesis 1 & Genesis 2 but Chapter 3 [Genesis 3] something happens and that is the fall. Don't eat of the fruit – they eat of the fruit. And what happens is they not only have to leave the presence of the garden, they actually leave the presence of God. Which is what made the garden perfect. So now they have to leave the garden – and so they are out of this environment – but they are also out of the presence of God. Now God is still interacting with them in different ways – he is speaking to them, but he is no longer walking hand in hand with his people. And so it isn't until Exodus – cause we read all throughout Genesis and there are hundreds of years that span throughout Genesis – and we get to Exodus, and Moses delivers his people out of Egypt. And it says that God heard his people and in the desert there is this interaction – there is this presence of God in the burning bush where God speaks to Moses and Moses delivers the people out of slavery in Egypt. It wasn't until this point that God begins to dwell again with his people in this foreshadow of what is to come. He says set up in the desert set up a tabernacle. This tent of meeting. That the Ark of the Covenant that contain the 10 Commandments and all these different things would dwell – and you place this Ark in the tabernacle and there my presence will dwell. My presence will be with my people once again. So we see that throughout the Old Testament. And the people get to the promised land after wandering the desert for 40 years and they enter into the promised land and there are Judges and there are Kings that are established in Israel. And it isn't until David receives the instructions from the Lord on where to build a temple. And then his son Solomon actually builds this Temple it is just a majestic amazing beautiful place and you look at the details of this temple and it represents the Garden of Eden. There are trees and there are vines and there is fruit that adorn this temple and it is covered in gold. I did the math on how much this temple would cost to build in today's day and age. Over \$500 billion is what they spend on building this Temple. Where the presence of God would dwell And God is with his people and his presence is there. But then again it is a foreshadow of what is to come. Because later on as they worship in the Temple throughout the Old Testament – in comes the New Testament – in comes this guy named Jesus, who claims to be Immanuel God with us. And he says this in Matthew 4:17 from that time on, after his baptism, Jesus began to preach and say – repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. It is now. It is not this future reality that you have to wait for. It's both here and now and not quite yet. It's interesting. How can the kingdom of heaven be now but not yet. Because the kingdom of heaven is where God is. And Jesus steps on the scene and says the kingdom of heaven is here because I am here.

See this is what makes the kingdom of heaven the kingdom of heaven – that God dwells with his people. And then he says I have got to go away and I am going to send you a helper. It is going to be better for you that I go away. And they said how is it better than God with us is no longer with us. Because the Holy Spirit now be with us and indwell with each of us. And in Luke 17 he says this – Jesus says now when he was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come he answered them and he said the kingdom of God does not come with observation. You cannot see the kingdom of God coming. How is that? Nor will they say – see here, see there – for indeed the kingdom of God is within you. You see the kingdom of God is now within us, so as we receive the Holy Spirit in our lives the kingdom of God is now within us. So now, Kingdom of Heaven is within me, and it is yet to come – I have this future reality that I can forward to. But here and now, the God of the universe lives in me. And so the kingdom of heaven is in me. It is this reality that we wrestle with. We go how is it that it is both here and not yet. Because, it is this future reality that we have to look forward to that is being played out in our midst. So with each step from the garden to the tabernacle to the Temple to Jesus to the Holy Spirit inside of us – we get closer and closer to this future reality of Revelation 21 and Revelation 22. Which is where the exciting part really comes in.

So, today there are 7 things that I want to talk to you about – about what we have to look forward to for this future kingdom – the greatest kingdom that has ever existed. The greatest kingdom that has ever been established. 7 things that I want to talk to you about that are hopefully going to get us excited about this Kingdom of Heaven. Now – for me, things that I get excited about are not so much what I read in Scripture of what will be there – other than Jesus – that is the number one thing I am looking forward to – let the other things like we have all heard of like the streets of gold – have you heard of that? Streets of gold in heaven? I don't necessarily get excited about streets of gold. Like that doesn't like light me up and fire me up – like I can't wait to get to heaven and see streets of gold! Like... OK, that's cool... Pearly Gates... whatever... Like I'm sure there'll be pretty – I'm sure they will be cool – like the river running from the throne – we've got rivers around here – that's neat – right... Like those are not things that light me up. Is that things that Scripture says that won't be there – I am like – Oh, dear Lord Jesus please let me go there. Right? There are seven things in Revelation 21 and Revelation 22 that will not be there – that I get excited about, that we are going to talk about right now. Now first one I am just going to warn you right off the bat – you're going to go... Huh?... Is going to take some explanation. So we're going to spend a little bit of time on this one. The number one thing that will not be in heaven that we are going to get excited about – are you ready?... No more sea... Well there is no clapping for that? You've got... No more sea... OK I will explain it. No more sea OK. This is what you have to understand – is anyone an ocean person – a sea person – like you like the water. I love the water, I love to go on vacations to place where there's ocean and there is water and there are waves and they're all different these different things – I love to boogie board – I love to skim board – I am like a little kid when I go to the ocean. When your little kid and he went to the ocean and the waves were coming at you punch them – and you jump over them – and he dodged them... and you run from them... I love to do that. Anyone else? OK – Thank you – I appreciate that. I love to do that, I love the water. So what does it mean there is no more sea, is God going to take it away? No. Here is what we have to understand about this book of Revelation. It is apocalyptic, it is figurative, it is not always literal, could it literally mean no more sea? It could. Here is what I think it means. The sea, in this day and age, in the first century, represented turmoil, it represented fear, it represented uncertainty and it represented danger. The sea was a dangerous place. People lost their lives at sea. So when Scripture says there is no more sea, there is no more turmoil, no more danger, there is no more uncertainty, there is no more fear. This will not exist in heaven. When John was writing this book, Revelation, to the first century churches, he was saying listen this is what I saw as Jesus transported me to this future reality.

There was no more turmoil there was no more danger there was no more fear there was no more uncertainty. All of that was gone. On top of that, what the sea represented was a division people groups. Going back to Lennon's song – there will be no more countries, there will be no more division, just brotherhood. John is going, I see this. A sea separates nations from nations. In order to cross over and see another nation you have to cross over the sea. He said there is no more sea, there is no more division. So, as we look forward to this great kingdom ahead of us, there is no more fear, there is no more turmoil, no more uncertainty, no more danger, no more division, brotherhood, one people coming together, without any fear. Is anyone else excited about that? Like does that sound good? Like I get excited about that. Like, I can't wait to live in a place where I don't have to fear. Like, whatever that fear is... I want you to think about your fear that you have. Maybe it is health, maybe it's finances, maybe it is your future, maybe you fear for something for a loved one, maybe you fear death, you fear... I don't know whatever your fears are... You take that and you go I will no longer be captured by that fear. That will be gone. No longer will I have that, you take division, maybe with having broken relationship. With a family member, with a coworker, with a loved one. And there is this division. No more of that. I think of the different people groups of the earth, and we are tribal people. We have our tribe and don't mess with my tribe. And if I am not a part of your tribe, then I don't like your tribe. And if you're not a part of my tribe, then you don't like my tribe. Like we are tribal people. And that is not necessarily a good thing, but it is kind of how we are in our fallen flesh. think – no more than, there is no more tribes in heaven – there is one nation – under God... Right? Like there is one nation one people group. So that is the first thing that will not be in heaven. 2, 3, 4, and 5... Are you ready? Revelations 21:4 – speaks to all four of these – 2, 3, 4, and 5... There is no more death, no more mourning no more weeping and no more pain. Come on! Can we just like... [Gabe leads the Congregation in vigorous applause] No more death, no more weeping, no more crying, no more pain... none of that. Like I think about this, like who here wakes up and you have to stretch in the morning just to get out of the bed and go to the bathroom. Like, you guys listen I am getting old... I am 37 years old now... [Congregation laughs] my body is breaking down, it is hurting. Knees are aching, lower back... Some of you must really be hurting, I mean I just can't... man oh man I can't imagine. Listen we have got new bodies. They are going to be pain free. No more hurting, no more stretching, no more knee aches, no more lower back... no more headaches, no more migraines, no more arthritis, no more anxiety, no more depression, no more sadness, no more death, no more pain, no more sorrow. None of that, it is gone. It is just perfect peace, and joy, and happiness, and contentment, and fulfillment, joy because we are in the presence of God who is life – who gives life – and who is happiness, and joy, and fulfillment, and contentment – come on, are we excited about this? [Gabe again leads the audience in enthusiastic applause] Holy Moly! like none of that is going to exist. It is not even like – going to be a thing, it is not even going to be a blip on the radar – it is just going to be perfect peace and joy. Constantly for ever. Never ending. And I think about like we get excited but the real. I mean, anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation. Like this is plaguing our country. This is plaguing our world. And statistically there are lots of people in this room right now, that have anxiety, that have depression, and who has suicidal thoughts. And here's the thing that you need to know... Here's the thing that you need to know now, and going forward. Now, we love you. And now, the kingdom of heaven is here. And now, God is with you. And now, God wants to help you. And now, there is a place for you. And now, you can talk about it. And now, we want to serve you and we want to come alongside you now. Because the kingdom of heaven is within us. And we don't have to wait until this future reality to be able to deal with the issues and the problems and the struggles that we have today, because the kingdom of heaven is here today. And there is hope for you today. And you need to know that. And you might go... Man but every single day is a grind... Keep grinding. And every single day is a struggle... Keep fighting. And every single day is just hard to

get out of bed, and hard to keep moving forward... Keep going. We have this reality to look forward to. Where that will never ever ever be a struggle again. Because Jesus defeated it. He conquered it. When he died on the cross he took our sin, he took our shame, he took our guilt, he took our anxiety, he took our sadness, you take everything, he placed it upon himself, he said it is finished. Well then why is it not finished in my life today? Because we still live in a fallen world. And we will continue to struggle, but as long as you continue – you have not lost the battle. And so we have this reality to look forward to – no more anxiety, no more depression, no more suicidal ideation, no more PTSD, no more fears, no more doubts, no more uncertainties, no more crisis of belief, none of that, this will all be gone. And we will have to look forward to perfect peace in heaven. Now we look at that and we say OK that is really really cool, but what else is going to be there?

Now listen this one might be a little interesting as well. But, 6 there will be no more night. Now here's what you have to understand, some people are night people. Like first of all, who is the morning people in the room? Like this is the 8 o'clock service, so most of you guys are morning people – right OK. Morning people in the room. 11 o'clock service territory be like two hands raised. Because they are not morning people. I am a morning person, like, typically on most mornings I get up about 4 AM. I love the mornings – they are peaceful, they are quiet, it is peaceful – I love watching the sun come up – I am not a night person. Right around 7:30 PM I get a little cranky because I am ready to go to bed right? Who else is the 7:30 cranky people? You can call me at 5:00 AM, don't call me at 8 o'clock. So, there is no more night. Some people are going – I like the night – I think the night is peaceful – I am a night person – I do my best work at night. Could it mean there is no more nighttime? Yes it could, but, here's what you have to understand about when it says there is no more night. There will no longer be a sun. There will no longer be a moon. Why? Because Revelation 21:25 says God will be the light that lights up the entire universe. Now hold on one second – like – OK our finite brains, I don't know if we can fully grasp that. So I don't want to skip over that. Think about this for a second. We are in this room right now – where the lights in this room barely illuminate this entire room. Jesus – God in the flesh – will be the light – his glory will light up not just a room, not just a building, not just the city... a State... a Country... a World... a Galaxy, but the universe that is infinite and expansive. He will light that entire universe up with his glory – his glory will shine for the entire universe to see. Is that mind-boggling to anyone else but me? The glory of our God that is with us will light up the universe – so why will there be no night? Because there will be no darkness. God will be its figurative light and its literal light. He will light up the universe, but, there will be no more darkness. What does that mean? No more sin. No more fear. Nothing that sin has created will no longer be in heaven in this future kingdom that we have to look forward to. There will be no more night. There will be no more darkness. Which leads to the seventh thing which is what all of this story is about. In Genesis 3 we see the curse. Because of sin it wasn't just a curse that was handed down to humans and we are affected by that, the entire world, the animals and plants and nature and planets and stars and suns and moons, then all of the universe is under this curse because of Genesis 3. But in Revelations 22:3 it says that there will no longer be any curse. So we take all the things that we just talked about. There is no more sea, fear, division. There is no more death morning we bring pain night. All of that is a result of the curse. It is saying take everything that you know that is bad and scary and negative about this life and it's all gone. I don't know if I fully comprehend and imagine that because I have no context for it. From the moment I was born until the moment I die I live in a fallen and sinful world. Can we just think using our sanctified imaginations for a second – what will that be like? What will it be like? Can we imagine a kingdom with perfect peace and joy and harmony and unity and contentment and fulfillment and happiness and fun. People go what are we going to do in heaven all the time – are we going to sit there and constantly worship before God? I would be to just sit on a cloud, playing a harp wearing a diaper, wearing wings. Like guys I'm

talking about heaven not hell. No! Like we are not going to be chubby little angel babies sitting on a cloud playing a harp singing songs for eternity that sounds awful. Like God gave us a universe to explore. I think I am going to fly in heaven. Does it say that in Scripture? No! I am using my sanctified imagination. I think I'm going to fly to different planets. Superman, Thor, Iron man... I don't know however it's going to work... but I'm going to fly. I am going to explore different things. God gave us work before the fall, I think we are going to work during the fall except work is going to be rewarding and fun. It is not going to be backbreaking, we are not going to have to toil with thorns and thistle as Scripture said. It is going to be enjoyable, what do you like to do here on earth? I think God is going to allow you to do that in heaven too. Except for it is going to be fulfilling. And rewarding and enjoyable and you will not be underpaid. And your boss will be a really good boss that you want to work for. So, in this kingdom there is a king and his name is Jesus. And he is the only way that we get into this kingdom. Now some of you may be – if you're not a follower of Jesus – you go you see there is the problem. OK sold me on the kingdom, I'm not sold on the King. The hard reality is this if you want into the kingdom he comes through the King. And if you are not willing to go through the King, you don't get into the kingdom. Well how can you say that? Because it is his kingdom and he said. Jesus says this in John 14:6 – I am the way the truth and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through me. I think that is one of the boldest claim ever made in the history of this world. Jesus steps into humanity and says you want into the kingdom? I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life. And no one is going to get there unless you go through me. It is not going to come through the idea and imagination of a song written in 1971 by John Lennon. It is not going to come by any other religion it is not going to come by any other god it is not going to come by any other belief system, it is not going to come by working hard enough, is not going to come by doing enough, it is not going to come by being a good enough person. It is going to come by giving your life to Jesus, surrendering to him, acknowledging that he is Lord, that he is Savior, and that he is the way.

[Congregation breaks out in spontaneous applause] It is his kingdom. It is his rules. And so that leads us to the greatest rule – the greatest commandment that Jesus says is in this kingdom – love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like unto it, love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments. If you read your Bible from Genesis to Revelations and you go OK what is the story all about? Is about loving God and loving people. He says take all that you know from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22 take all you know, all that you have been taught, all that you understand and sum it up by loving God and loving other people. This is what the kingdom will be about. Is love, it is the kingdom of love. And this is the really really cool thing about this concept of love right? Right now here in today, love is a struggle. 1 Corinthians 13 tells us what love is it is patient, it's kind, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it is not rude. I'm going to read some of these in a little bit. This is love right – and it is a struggle to meet those things. In the kingdom you won't have to try to love. You will just love. Why? Because you will be in a perfect presence of a perfect love. God will be there. His love will manifest. And choosing anything else won't exist. You go OK so there won't be choice in heaven? No, no, no... There will be choice. God gives us free will, is free choice but guess what has been eliminated from our choice, from our options, from our buffet... sin, curse, hatred, division not even going to be there – is going to be destroyed it is going to be gone. So we choose love. We will love, our desire will simply be to love. Because we have been glorified to be like Jesus. And so as we look at 1 Corinthians 13 and we look at what love is now and what love will be then, love is patient, love is kind. We can't be jerks and say that we are loving. That is not representing Jesus, that is not representing his kingdom. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, we don't look out and say look at me I am so good. As followers of Jesus we don't walk around going look at me... Look at me... Look at me. We go – look at my God, look at my God, look at my

God... Don't look at me, look at my God. And if we are directing attention onto us – we are taking attention away from God. We are not boastful, we are proud. We don't dishonor others. I can't stand it when people dishonor other people. One of the many, many, many, many reasons I love my wife – she does not put up with other women dishonoring their husbands. You get married and people oh... You can I have an old ball and chain with you... And when people say that, you know it makes me want to punch them. My wife is not a ball and chain. My wife is my best friend. My wife is my hero. My wife is my confidant, my wife is my security, my wife is my prayer warrior, my wife is a person that I would rather spend every waking moment with than anyone else in this world. Not my ball and chain! Men we don't disrespect and dishonor our wives – wives we don't disrespect and dishonor our husbands. We don't dishonor each other. We build each other up. And we get an opportunity to talk about one another – what is coming out of our mouth, is it honor or is it dishonor. My wife will leave the presence of someone who's talking bad about their husband. Because she doesn't want to put up with it. Love keeps no record of wrongs – it is not self-seeking – it is not easily angered – love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth – it always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. We live this out today it is the greatest commandment in the kingdom. In the future kingdom it will just come out of us. And here's the thing that I believe about love. Love is a choice that we have to make every single day. But as we grow in our relationship with Jesus, that choice becomes a desire. If all love is, is constantly a choice just to muscle through – and I've got to be patient, and I've got to not be self-seeking, if it is just... You're just muscling through... choosing, choosing, choosing – all the time – and you don't have a desire for it – I think God needs to do some work inside of you. Because as we grow as we understand who Jesus is – our desire for him and our desire to serve him and our desire to obey and our desire to do what he says and to be like him – should change.

So here's what I'll tell you, maybe you are saying well I don't have that desire. Pray and ask God for it. Like today! During this next song that we are going to be singing – during communion – during this time of reflection, you can simply sit there and go God change my desire. God I am not patient, I am not kind I am easily angered, I am rude, I don't honor people. God change my desire for that. You can pray that today and I believe that God wants to answer that prayer. And change the desires for you to love people. In 1999 there was a guy named Bart Miller who also wrote a song. And it is called "I Can Only Imagine" it says this: I can only imagine what it would be like, when I walk by your side, I can only imagine, what my eyes would see when your face is before me, I can only imagine. Surrounded by your glory what will my heart feel? Like dance for you Jesus, or in awe of you be still? Will I stand in your presence, or to my knees will I fall, will I sing hallelujah, will I be able to speak at all? I can only imagine. I can only imagine when that day comes, and I find myself standing in the sun. I can only imagine when all that I will do, is forever, forever worship you. I can only imagine. When I hear this song, or when I read these lyrics, it reminds me every single time of my grandmother. It was the Ring Tone on her phone when she was alive. Every single time someone would call her – this song will play... [Gabe singing] I can only imagine... [Speaking again] my grandmother passed away three years ago and my grandmother's not going to have to imagine what it is like anymore. My grandmother is in this perfect kingdom – before God – with my granddad. They are not imagining anymore – they are experiencing perfect peace. No more cancer, no more heart problems, no more strokes, no more aches, no more pains... perfected. I can only imagine. But I would rather imagine this than the song written in 1971 that removes God from the picture altogether. So as we close, I have a couple questions I to simply want you to reflect on. are you part of his kingdom? Are you a part... of his kingdom. Are you kingdom people? And if you go – I don't know if I am, do you want to be? Do you want to be a part of this kingdom? It doesn't look like the kingdom we are trying to build down here on earth, it isn't working out too well. Do you want to be a part of the better one? Jesus says I tell you the truth unless you are born again you

cannot see the kingdom of God. What does it mean to be born again? It means to have a spiritual birthday – to give your life to Jesus. To surrender to him and allow the Holy Spirit to come inside of you. Guess what? He loves you so much and he wants you to be a part of his kingdom – he died for you. He took all your sin your guilt your shame your anxiety your depression, everything about you took it on himself – he pinned it on the cross and he says it is finished – come home. Be a part of the kingdom. We will have people up here at the end of service during the song to be able to pray with you – to be able to help you understand what that means. You say I don't even know what it looks like to be a part of his kingdom – how do I make Jesus my Lord? – we will have a conversation with you about that. We love to talk to you about that. He welcomes you to his kingdom. You can also text in the number that will be up on the screen – text in "Yes" If you want to make a decision for Jesus and just talk to someone about what that looks like. We would love to have a conversation with you. For those who have given their life to Jesus are you living as if his kingdom is the greatest kingdom and the one to fight for? Or are you fighting for your kingdom, or the kingdom of America? Which kingdom are you fighting for? I think fighting for Jesus kingdom is the best option. It is the eternal option. Everything we fight for down here, except for relationship will all go away. Jesus' kingdom is made up of a kingdom of people that are eternal. Everything else we see around us is temporary. So, you guys excited about Jesus kingdom? Are we excited about it. OK good [Gabe leads an audience applaud] I am excited about being a part of this kingdom. I hope I get to see you there for eternity. I'm going to end with this 1 Timothy 1:17 now, to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever – and all of God's people said – Amen.