

2/9/25 SALT CO
February 9, 2025

The Seven Windows in Jesus' House of Prayer
Third Window: The Window on New Creation

"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"
 Matthew 6:10

WELCOME TO THE SALT CO!

Welcome those who are joining us online.

This is the HUB of Seasoned Adult Ministry. For anyone new...by SEASONED ADULTS we mean:

SEASONED AS IN...

Chronologically-- we've lived a lot of seasons of life

BUT more importantly-

Spiritually--- ...like when sodium and chlorine combined make SALT... by the grace of God, when we receive Christ into our lives, we become like THIS [gesture: one hand—two hands—joined together]

JESUS CALLS US THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

And this is the SALT CO (where we pull off the road to gather, AND share stories about how to faithfully navigate the ever-changing terrain on Route 60+; and Route 60++...and +++...

A place where we:

Re-fuel

Re-charge

And sometimes even...*Re-tool*

How many are going to catch the Superbowl today? Here's some Superbowl Trivia.

Now on to more important things...

I have been asked for background reading on the Lord's Prayer. I asked Tim to get some copies of the book The Lord and His Prayer by N.T. Wright in the bookstore. An excellent read!

BOOK BY N.T. WRIGHT

SALT TALK

We're accepting Jesus' invitation to come see what He sees through, here is our theme, the Seven Windows in His House of Prayer, what we call "The Lord's Prayer".

Because we want to see what He sees, think His thoughts, all made possible by the gift of His Word infused and inspired by His Spirit. It's how we can live and love like Him.

First Window opens when we pray "***Our Father in heaven...***" This is the Window on Joy. God our Father is full of glad-to-be-together JOY! All things were created by Him in love and joy.

Second Window opens as we pray, "***Hallowed be Your name...***" This is the Window on Beauty, because when we hallow who God is we are like mirrors reflecting His glory out into a searching world, and His holiness that shines is... beautiful!

The first two windows help prepare us today to come with Jesus to the Third Window in His House of Prayer. We pray,

"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

This third window offers us a "zen view".

ZEN VIEW WINDOW

A small opening in a wall that focuses what we can see. It offers but a glimpse of what's out there. Glimpses stir curiosity, get us wondering about what we cannot yet fully see.

Now Jesus invites us to a glimpse of a panorama beyond our imagining.

Jesus loved to tell stories that helped His listeners to begin to imagine what the kingdom of God is like. These are well known to many of us. For example:

“The kingdom of God is like ...a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has fully grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

Matthew 13:31-32

How about this one?

“The kingdom is like... treasure in a field, which someone found and hid. Then in his joy he goes and sells all he has and buys that field...”

Matthew 14:44

Or this one,

“The kingdom of God can be compared... to someone who sowed good seed in his field but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat...”

Matthew 13:24-25

Jesus' stories had a way of sorting out his listeners. Some would hear him and walk away shaking their heads, “Nonsense”. Others would feel the tug of curiosity from this glimpse, and lean in to look more closely, to wonder...

How are you doing this morning? Feeling curious? Good!

Because in these days before Jesus' return in glory this is how the kingdom of God comes on earth. Quietly, emerging, even secretly requiring searching, detecting, noticing. And here is a great discovery...

Dallas Willard described praying this while in bed in the morning, “***your kingdom come, your will be done...***” then swinging his legs over the bed onto the floor as he prayed “***on earth***”

As we pray in this Third Window we are praying for His kingdom to come at “these coordinates” = right where we are, right HERE! Right now.

It turns out by His power at work in us we are *both* the ***pray--er*** and in our everyday lives, part of the ***answer to the prayer***. It seems we are participating, you and I, in a “divine conspiracy”.

Here’s a great book:

The Divine Conspiracy

Dallas Willard wrote his classic with this title that expresses how the kingdom of God is at work today. A conspiracy works quietly, subtly, carefully, effectively. Willard describes the divine conspiracy as

“God overcoming evil with good in the grinding processes of human history.” (2x)

The grinding processes is where we live, where we are formed, where He meets us, where we think, decide and act either in alignment with His purposes by His grace or against them.

We can tell from how Jesus was received that many were not open to His invitation to peer through this third Window in His House of Prayer. They had no patience for a “zen view”. They had been waiting a long time for the return of the Davidic king to take the throne. They had their own “big picture” of HOW the kingdom of God would come: as a military and political force that would drive out the Romans and restore Israel to greatness once again. So, it was a shock to many that Jesus that Palm Sunday, rode into the city and not on a white charger with his sword lifted high, but low and slow on a donkey.

When we pray, “***Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven?***” what sort of kingdom do we envision?

But remember, this zen view window is in Jesus' House of Prayer. The question is what does sort of kingdom does He see?

Jesus began His public ministry with this message, ***“Repent, the kingdom of God is at hand”*** He was *not* just talking about the presence of the KOG- most people believed God had a Kingdom...what was different was Jesus proclaimed that the Kingdom of God was IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE to them all in His own Person.

Where Jesus is, there is the kingdom.

People heard the good news. They came to him in droves, with all manner of needs, illnesses, brokenness, sin sickness, fear. And Jesus showed them, all of us what the Kingdom of God is like

Matthew puts it like this:

“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.”

Matthew 4:23

To put it simply,

The kingdom of God is where the rule and reign of God is done (2x)

Anyone who finally comes to decide to TRUST Jesus and bring their personal kingdom (everything they have say over) under authority and in alignment with God's rule and reign- that person's life becomes a little “zen view” for others to catch a glimpse of God's kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven.

The Bible Project team helps expand our Zen view through this Third Window. This is a little under seven minutes.

It turns out this Third Window in Jesus' House of Prayer is the window on new creation!

Did you notice that little guy sailing over from earth into heaven? If that's our assumption about what the "gospel" is, to make sure that when we die, we go to heaven, what are the implication for us as Seasoned Adults? What are our lives for now? We're waiting to die! (Gospel of "sin management").

But if the gospel good news is the presence and availability of the kingdom of God, and you and I are invited to Jesus as agents of His rescue and repair mission now underway, then your life and mine matters intensely "on earth" here and now! And for the rest of our days, for a life "everlasting".

I look around this room. There are all kinds of stories here of how the Kingdom of God is coming THROUGH your daily lives...sometimes through ministries of this church (Fresh Market, helping with our children, fire recovery, leading a small group, table guides, birthday cards, but most of the time...in your personal daily interactions that only you and the Lord know about.

Every day we get glimpses of His joyful, beautiful rule on earth as it is in heaven. I can still see the night we stood at the end of the entrance to the HSM under arches of balloons as VIP's were escorted in their dresses and tuxedos into the dance, music blaring. The smiles, the cheering (where appropriate). I thought to myself, "*Here is the kingdom of God...*"

-Where and when have you seen the kingdom of heaven on evidence? We'll share a few stories at our Table Time.

It begins to dawn on us as we peer through Jesus Third Window in His House of Prayer that what we see there reveals our vocation, our calling!

Jesus said it, "***You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world...***"

You and I are AGENTS in the divine conspiracy!

Christian psychiatrist and author Dr. Curt Thompson is thinking about our calling in his podcast. Here's how he describes our participation:

"It's all about repairing ruptures." It's a good way to put it, isn't it? It's what we find ourselves involved in more and more as we navigate the ever-changing terrain on Route 60+ with our friends, our families. This is not easy. We need all the grace, all the mercy for this calling. And encouragement.

A while back I visited a woman in the hospital whom I've known a long time. She was pretty low. She felt like she didn't want to be here anymore. I asked if I could speak to her about that. I pointed out that her family was watching her- seeing how it goes at this stage of life. The way my mom and dad did for me in their last days. I pointed out there was also the hospital staff in and out of her room. They were watching too. That she had a "ministry" to consider at this stage of things.

At the end The Divine Conspiracy Dallas Willard imagines what lies beyond this zen view:

"Thus, we should not think of ourselves as destined to be celestial bureaucrats, involved eternally in celestial administtrivia. That would be only slightly better than being caught in an everlasting church service..."

No, we should think of our destiny as being absorbed in a tremendously creative team effort, with unimaginably splendid leadership, on an inconceivably vast plane of activity, with ever more comprehensive cycles of productivity and enjoyment. This is the 'eye hath not seen, neither the ear heard' that lies before us in the prophetic vision (Isaiah 64:4)."

Dallas Willard in The Divine Conspiracy, p. 399

Let's go to our tables.

TABLE TALK

1. Share some stories of where you see evidence of the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.
2. ***“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.”***

How does Jesus' example of TEACHING-PROCLAIMING-MANIFESTING the Kingdom of God help you understand what you are praying for when you say, “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven?”

3. *“Your eternal destiny is not cosmic retirement; it is to be part of a tremendously creative project, under unimaginably splendid leadership, on an inconceivably vast scale, with ever-increasing cycles of fruitfulness and enjoyment -- that is the prophetic vision which 'eye has not seen and ear has not heard" Dallas Willard*

Are you in? If so, how are you experiencing “training for reigning” in your life now to get ready for the next stage of participation in the Kingdom of God when Jesus appears?

WRAP UP

Willard used to like to ask his fellow Christians, “What do you see yourself doing in 300 years?”

When you and I pray in light of Jesus' Third Window in His House of Prayer and live it...you and I are bringing the KOG into view here and now...and that is the work we will be doing together FOREVER.

What's it going to be like?

At the end of our bibles John got a look beyond our zen view. With help from the Spirit, he found words to describe what he saw:

“Then I saw a new heaven and earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

***‘See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
They will be his peoples,
And God himself will be with them;***

***He will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
Mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
For the first things have passed away.***

And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’”

Revelation 21:1-5

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! It has already begun.

So today, right here, right now, on earth (!) we walk the talk...

Pray the Lord's Prayer

The Jewish New Testament

Our Father in heaven!

May your Name be kept holy.

May your Kingdom come,

your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us the food we need today.

Forgive us what we have done wrong,

as we too have forgiven those who have wronged us.

And do not lead us into hard testing,

but keep us safe from the Evil One.

For kingship, power and glory are yours forever. Amen.

Blessing