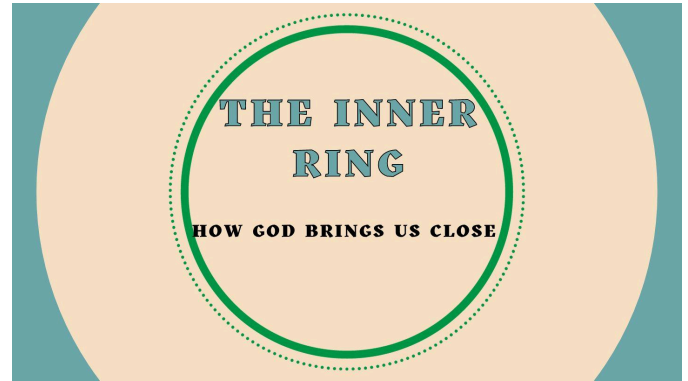


Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for February 4, 2024
The Inner Ring: Details

For personal reflection or for use as a devotion
with CGS Community or family



- **Begin by reflecting on/sharing a high and/or a low from your week**

- **CONNECT** *with each other*

- Think of one of your hobbies. If your hobby suddenly became an Olympic sport, what would the key events be, and what kind of outrageous uniform or equipment upgrades would athletes need to excel in your hobby Olympics?

- **GROW** *in Christ*

As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. 30 Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. 31 So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. 33 The whole town gathered at the door, 34 and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. 36 Simon and his companions went to look for him, 37 and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

38 Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." 39 So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Mark 1:29-39

- Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
- What events precede the passage in Mark 1:29-39, and what is the immediate context of this portion of Mark's Gospel?
- Describe the healing of Simon's mother-in-law in Mark 1:29-31. What does this healing reveal about Jesus' compassion and power?
- How do the people in Capernaum respond to Jesus' healing ministry, as seen in Mark 1:32-34?
- Mark mentions that Jesus was preaching and casting out demons. How do these two aspects of His ministry complement each other, and what do they reveal about the kingdom of God?

- o In Mark 1:35, Jesus withdraws to a desolate place to pray. Why is this significant, and what does it reveal about Jesus' relationship with the Father?
- o In verses 36-37, Simon and others seek for Jesus. Why are they looking for Him, and what does this suggest about their understanding of His mission?
- o How does Jesus respond to the disciples' search for Him in Mark 1:38-39? What does His response reveal about His purpose and priorities?
- o Reflect on Jesus' statement in Mark 1:38, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." How does this express the expansiveness of His ministry?
- o Consider the combination of healing and preaching in Jesus' ministry in Galilee. How do these elements work together to communicate the message of the kingdom?
- o In what ways might Christians today balance acts of compassion, prayer, and proclamation of the gospel in their service to others?

- **SERVE** *others*

During the month of February, Royal Redeemer is turning a spotlight on the work done by Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. Kairos is a Christian faith based ministry which addresses the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women, youth and their families. By sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, Kairos hopes to change hearts, transform lives and impact the world. As a ministry, Kairos embraces a diverse group of volunteers working together to fulfill Christ's call to action in Matthew 25:36. Royal Redeemer members support Kairos at Lebanon Correctional Institute, in Lebanon, Ohio. For more information on Kairos, contact Mark or Julia Pohl markopohlo@hotmail.com and visit kairosprisonministry.org

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing**

Heavenly Father, As we turn to Your Word, we are reminded of the compassion and healing power of your Son, Jesus Christ. Like the crowds that sought Him, we come before you with our needs and concerns, trusting in your grace and mercy.

Thank you for the example of Jesus, who took time to pray in solitude, seeking your guidance and strength. In the midst of our busy lives, grant us the wisdom to find moments of quiet reflection in your presence.

Lord, as we lift our concerns and hopes before you, may we experience the healing touch of Jesus in our lives. Heal our bodies, minds, and spirits, and grant us the resilience to face life's challenges with faith.

Help us, like the disciples, to follow the example of Christ, spreading the message of your love and healing to those around us. May our lives be a reflection of your compassion, drawing others closer to the source of true hope and restoration. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.