

# Matthew 17:14-21

Pastor Jim Thomas  
October 16, 2022



## SERMON NOTES

### Matthew

The King and His Kingdom

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The King in His Power

1. The Approaching and Approachable King
2. The Enemy of the King
3. The Unbelief at the Center of Every Spiritual Failure
4. The Trustworthy King

*“For all His resplendent glory and dazzling holiness, His supreme uniqueness and otherness, no one in human history has ever been more approachable than Jesus Christ.”*

- Dane Ortlund, *Gentle and Lowly*

*“Listen up, Christian. You have an implacable enemy whose single objective is to plant a victory flag in the soil of your vanquished faith. He wants to devour you, consume you, and destroy you.”*

- Brian G. Hedges, *Watchfulness*

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.”

- 1 Peter 5:6-10 (NASB)

*“Anxiety is only the context for sin, not its cause. Our base problem is unbelief. Failing to trust the infinite God, we live anxiously, restlessly, always trying to secure and extend ourselves with finite goods that can’t take the weight we put on them.”*

- Cornelius Plantinga, *Not The Way It’s Supposed to Be*

*“Every prayer I have ever prayed, from the most faithful to the least, has been in part a confession uttered in the Gospel of Mark: ‘I believe; help my unbelief.’”*

- Tish Harrison Warren, *Prayer in the Night*

*“Let’s not trade the glories of the cross for a mess of religious niceties, spiritual ambiguities, and moral uplift. It’s time to tell the old, old story once again – the story of sin atoned for, wrath appeased, heaven secured, and death conquered. No gimmicks, no trinkets, no goofy skits and video clips. The story is good enough all by itself. Let’s just make sure we haven’t lost the plot.”*

- Kevin DeYoung

*“The New Testament writers speak as if Christ’s achievement in rising from the dead was the first event of its kind in the whole history of the universe. He is the ‘first fruits,’ the ‘pioneer of life.’ He has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the king of death. Everything is different because He has done so. This is the beginning of the new creation; a new chapter in cosmic history has opened.”*

- C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*