



# A New King

The life of Jesus  
according to Matthew's Gospel

 St Stephen's  
WILLOUGHBY

Wk 19

## TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Song
- Confession & Assurance
- Song
- Spotlight
- Song
- Prayers
- Bible Reading:  
Matthew 15:1-20  
(p. 981)
- Sermon
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Conclusion

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contribute financially.

## Sunday 16 March 2025

*Our 9:30am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels.*

"Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee."

These words remind us that in Jesus, we find refuge, grace, and hope. Whether you're new, visiting, or a regular, we pray you'll know the security and peace that comes from Christ today.



Church is a privilege—we gather as God's people to hear His Word, pray, and encourage one another. If you're new or want to connect more, scan the QR code for our Connect Card. Let us know how you found the service and how we can support you.

**A quick note for next week: our 9:30 Congregation is having their Big Day Out on Saturday, 22 March, so there will be no regular service on Sunday, 23 March.**

May today remind us that nothing in our hands we bring, but simply to the cross we cling!

### Next Steps

**Are you new?** We would love to meet you. Hear a brief intro on the life of our church at our next [Newish Morning Tea](#) on 30 March. It runs for ½ an hour straight after the service.

**Been regularly coming?** If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next [Belonging Course](#) which runs on 1 June from 12-3pm. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community. Or if you'd like to learn more at another time, you can arrange a coffee with Prash or Jill. Simply reach out – they'd love to chat.

# Prayers for the Service

These prayers are used during the service. Prayer is a privilege we are given because Christ died for us. His death & resurrection means we can confidently approach God seeking forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you believe that Christ died to deal with your failings then you should be confident to pray with us. If you are still exploring who Christ is then feel free to listen in.

## A Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart,  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves:  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

In [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins,  
in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Eph 1:7

## The Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever  
Amen.

# Sermon Notes

The King and Your Heart | Matthew 15:1-20

Preacher: Damien Clark

1. Tradition vs Command

2. Clean vs Unclean

3. Jesus cares about your heart!

# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

## Discuss together

Think about a non-Christian friend/colleague/family member. What might they say about this question: “Where does evil come from?”

## Going deep in God’s Word

### Read Matthew 15:1-20

1. Summarise what the Pharisees accuse the disciples of (v. 1-2). How do you think they define evil and where evil comes from?
2. What is Jesus’s response to this (v. 3-9)? What does it show us about the purpose of God’s commands/laws?
3. Where does evil come from according to Jesus (v. 10-11, 17-20)? How is that counter-cultural to what the Pharisees believe? How is that counter-cultural to what our world believes?
4. If this account/passage wasn’t in the Bible, what do you think will be missed in our appreciation of the Cross?

## Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's Word, spend some time reflecting on the following questions and praying together.

1. Are there times I feel tempted to downplay my own sinful heart? How does that affect my love of Christ and my appreciation/thankfulness of His sacrifice for me?

2. Are there times I feel tempted to downplay the sinful heart of my non-Christian friends? How does that affect the urgency and longing I have to see them saved by Christ?

Pray also for:

- **Morning Church Big Day Out this Saturday:** that we would grow deeper in our relationship and fellowship with one another under God's Word.
- **Newcomers at Night Church:** that recent visitors and newcomers would be welcomed and that they would find their place in our church family and grow deep in their faith.

If you have time, finish by singing How Deep the Father's Love For Us together, you can scan this QR Code to listen to a recording with lyrics.



## Read the Bible with us!

Using some of the questions to guide you.

1. What does this show me about God?
2. What does this show me about myself and my relationship to God?
3. What does this show me about Jesus?
4. How might this shape my heart, mind, life, actions today?

Monday – [1 John 1](#)

Tuesday – [1 John 2](#)

Wednesday – [1 John 3](#)

Thursday – [1 John 4](#)

Friday – [1 John 5](#)

# Notices

## Big Day Out - 22 March

Big Day Out is on Next Saturday!  
It's going to be great. It also means we will not have a 9:30am Service next Sunday. There will still be a 6pm Service that weekend. If you haven't registered please speak to Prash after to work out arrangements to come!



## All-in Training

What a beautiful sight! Two weeks ago, 84 people gathered for training, eager to serve and grow. In a world where volunteer numbers are shrinking, it's so encouraging to see God's Spirit at work urging people to serve.



# Notices

## KYCK 2025 - 2-4 May

KYCK is a conference for high school students in the Blue Mountains.

From May 2nd-4th, those in Years 7-12 will hear Bible talks, sing, and spend time together. It's a great chance to learn and grow in faith. Do you know anyone in high school you could invite along?

Got questions?  
Speak to Nikita.

We hope to see you there!



## Lunar New Year Banquet

Last month we took a step, as a church, to bring the good news of Jesus to our friends and neighbours through our Lunar New Year Banquet.

We gave invitations and put fliers in letterboxes. We worked together in teams to organise the event. In God's kindness, He brought over 30 guests along and we packed out the Chapel Hall. As a church, we welcomed our guests, and presented both the message gospel through the Alpha session and also the warmth of the gospel in our hospitality. What a win that night was!!

We had around 14 of those guests sign up to continue in the Alpha course and we are more than halfway through Alpha.

Please stop to celebrate and thank God for the LNY Banquet, and pray for each of those guests to come into relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.



## What's Coming Up

|               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| 17 - 24 March | Alpha                      |
| 20 March      | Encounter for Seniors      |
| 21 March      | Friday Kids & HPS Big Week |
| 22 March      | Big Day Out                |
| 30 March      | Newish Morning Tea         |

For more on what's happening this autumn at St Stephen's, visit [st-stephens.com.au/autumn](http://st-stephens.com.au/autumn)

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



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