



the good news according to

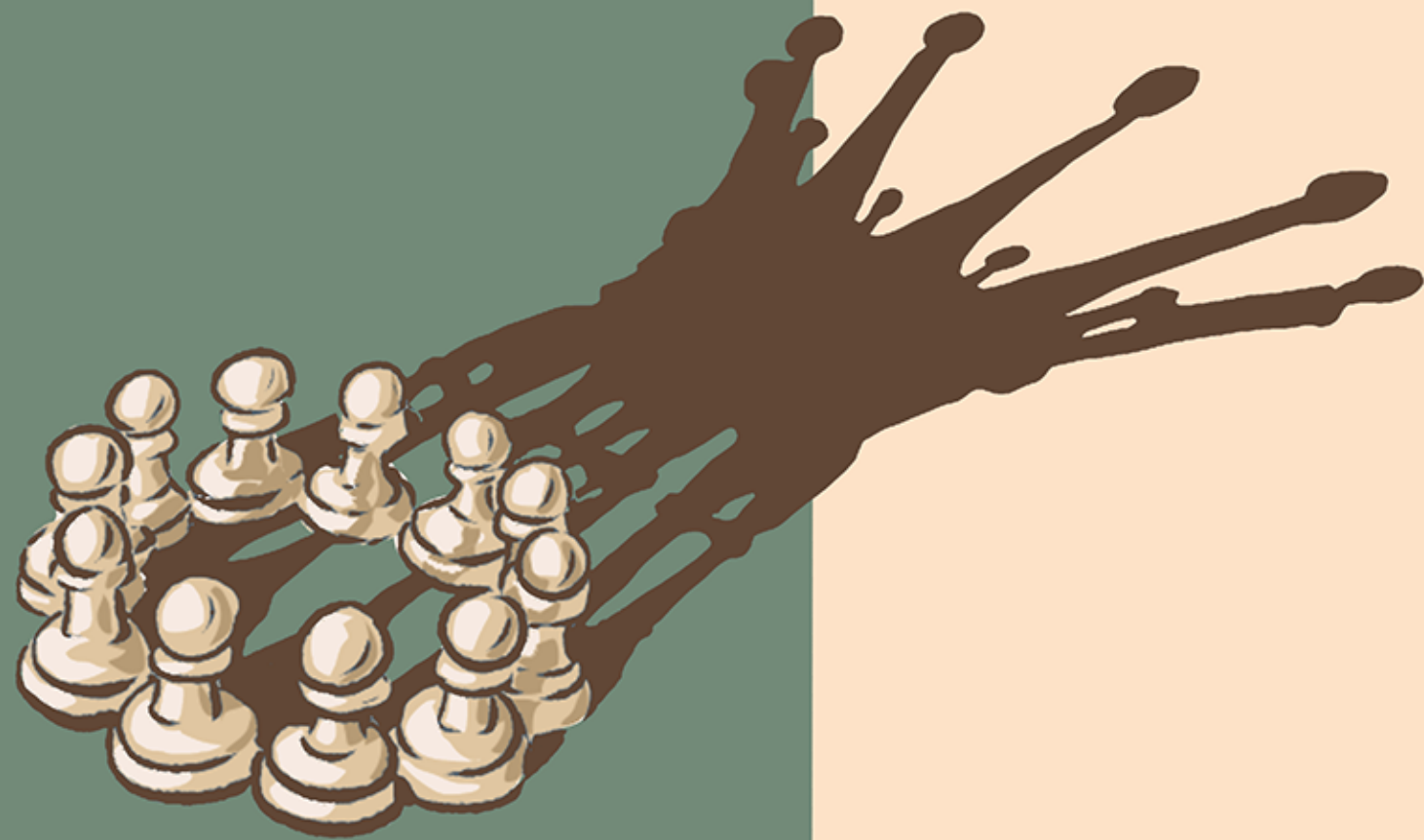
MATTHEW

Chapter 11:1-19

**The Anomalous
Kingdom**

¹ When Jesus had finished giving these instructions to his twelve disciples, he went out to teach and preach in towns throughout the region. ² John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, ³ “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?”





**God's
kingdom
OFTEN DEFIES
OUR
EXPECTATIONS**

⁴ Jesus told them, “Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen—⁵ the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.”⁶ And he added, “God blesses those who do not fall away because of me.”

Isa 26:19

For your life-giving light will fall like dew on your people in the place of the dead!

Isa 35:5-6

And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy!

Isa 35:5-6

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.



God's kingdom
focuses on
RESTORATION,
NOT
judgement

The image features a central text element surrounded by a lush, artistic border. The border is composed of various botanical and insect motifs. On the left, a vertical stem with green leaves and small purple buds runs down. At the bottom left, there are large, soft-focus flowers in shades of purple and blue. The right side of the border is dominated by several large, vibrant blue butterflies with white spots on their wings, flying upwards. Interspersed among the butterflies are various flowers, including a large purple iris-like flower at the top right, a large pink tulip-like flower at the bottom right, and several smaller blue and yellow flowers. The entire composition is set against a light peach or cream-colored background.

my sin

YOUR SIN



God's kingdom
focuses on
RESTORATION,
NOT
judgement

⁷ As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. "What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind?
⁸ Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people with expensive clothes live in palaces. ⁹ Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet.

¹⁰ John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹ “I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!

¹² And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it. ¹³ For before John came, all the prophets and the law of Moses looked forward to this present time. ¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept what I say, he is Elijah, the one the prophets said would come. ¹⁵ Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!

COIN OF HEROD
ANTIPAS WITH SEAL
OF GALILEAN REED.



Literal Greek: βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν βιάζεται
καὶ βιασταὶ ἄρπάζουσιν αὐτήν

**“...the kingdom of heaven is taken by
violence and [the] violent claim it”**

God's kingdom
doesn't RELY ON
HUMAN
tactics of
FORCE



¹⁶ “To what can I compare this generation? It is like children playing a game in the public square. They complain to their friends, ¹⁷ ‘We played wedding songs, and you didn’t dance, so we played funeral songs, and you didn’t mourn.’¹⁸ For John didn’t spend his time eating and drinking, and you say, ‘He’s possessed by a demon.’

¹⁹ The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, ‘He’s a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!’ But wisdom is shown to be right by its results.”



**RESTORATION
IS MORE**
important than
RESPECTABILITY
in God's
kingdom



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