

## Heaven Breaking Through

Jesus came preaching, teaching, and healing. He died and was raised. In what practical ways does this make a difference in our ordinary life?



**Micah 6:8** He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**Matthew 9:35-38** Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

### Reflections

So...I'm sitting at my desk trying to write something useful on the subject of "Heaven Breaking Through", and the whole time I'm sitting here, it's just pouring outside. Rain coming down so hard my wife sends me to the basement to check for leaks. And I'm going, hmm, heaven breaking through. And then words come to me, from a choir anthem long ago:

*Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

It's Isaiah 45:8, and continues:

*Let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together. I the LORD have created it.*

What would it be like, if the heavens opened up and rained down righteousness, the goodness of God, and the earth (that's probably us!) opened up to receive it?

And then the flood of scripture comes. "The Word became

flesh and dwelt among us." "To those who received Him, he gave power to become children of God." And our constant prayer: "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." The heavens *have* opened up, and have rained down on us, in the person, words, example, death

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and resurrection of Jesus our Lord. He has shown us the way and has placed, as Mark (1: 15) summarizes the gospel, the kingdom of heaven at hand.

But what of the second part to Isaiah's plea, the part that goes, "Let the earth open, and bring forth salvation...and righteousness"? What would it be like, if

we really did receive what God is pouring out, and it (we) brought forth His goodness...here? What becomes of our wars, of our striving? What happens in our homes? What becomes of the way we work? The way we talk with our neighbor? The way that we deal with the poor, the hungry, the "sojourner within our gates"?

Imagine what the world is like under the rain [sic] of God, and then return to the prayer our Lord taught us, "Your will be done on earth as in heaven." Jesus taught us that prayer not because it's impossible, but because it is what God offers. That life is God's promise to us. Here. Now. Pray for it. Live it. More each day. And let the power of God, his kingdom among us, change who we are.

By the way, the basement didn't leak. But maybe...maybe I need a leaky life. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

— Bob Henderson

#### Series Resource:

God is Closer Than You Think,  
John Ortberg, 2005.

## Readings

### Sunday, November 8

Micah 6:8 – a verse to commit to heart. This is a week to explore what it is like when heaven breaks through in our lives. Why do we want to do “what the Lord requires”? What do “justice” and “mercy” mean in your life this day? What is it “to walk humbly”?

### Monday, November 9

Romans 15:1-6 Describe a time when you were the strong one? Describe a time when you were one who fell short? Think of a time when you fell short and someone was there to encourage and build you up. How did that feel? Consider the call placed on your life that by the example of Christ in this text.

### Tuesday, November 10

Luke 14:12-14 A wonderfully practical text, and something we probably find very hard to do. Yet...what is the attitude that Jesus is calling for here? How might your life be different (how might it be set free...) if we dealt with all others not seeking to be repaid?

### Wednesday, November 11

Colossians 3:12-17 What an image! *Clothe* yourself, live a life enveloped in, “compassion, kindness, humility,…” The whole list. Where today might there be “barbs” in your clothing, that need to be changed out for this Christ-like garment? What needs to be done today to live in His peace?

### Thursday, November 12

1 Thessalonians 5:15, Luke 6:27-36 Kind of where “the rubber meets the road.” Not how we respond to a random neighbor, nor to the random “less fortunate,” but how do we respond to those who have hurt us? Where today might you need to change a response? Christ lived this all the way to a cross...ask Him for help.

### Friday, November 13

Ephesians 4:31-32 Two neatly contrasting verses: get rid of this; replace it with that. Think about forgiveness today. Who do you need to forgive? To whom do you need to admit a wrong? How might you begin? Ask Jesus to do some “replacing” in your heart.

### Saturday, November 14

Romans 12:9-21; Mark 12: 28-34 In Romans, Paul challenges us to live in peace with all: God’s people, those in need, the despised, even those who hurt us. When have you acted out of such love? How was it for you? The call of Christ is to live (and feel...) that way always. Where has God worked within you this week? Take time to reflect, and rejoice in what He is doing.

***Don't have a Bible? Access these scriptures at [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com).***