

# A Kingdom Not of This World

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*March 12*

*Read: John 18:33-37*

*Peter Kingma*

In 2003 Sherry, my wife of 34 years, was diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. For 6 years she used the tools available to her to combat the disease: joy, optimism, wisdom, gratitude and faith. No effort or expense was spared in the quest for a cure. Each day thousands prayed. Despite all this we watched her body shrivel away. She took her last breath on Dec. 27, 2009 surrounded by her family. At this point all hope, humanly speaking was gone. What happened? Over the following days it became clear.

As modern Christians we seek, expect and often claim the benefits of our faith in this earthly life. Jesus never promised to improve the earthly lives of his followers. Often the opposite was true. Just consider John the Baptist. He was thrown into a dungeon for his faithful ministry and decapitated. When Jesus returned to heaven the world was just as messed up as when He came and still is. The miracles he did were to “manifest his glory,” not to eliminate suffering on the earth. “My kingdom is not of this world,” Jesus told Pilate. Jesus came, died and rose again so that my dear Sherry, and all believers, “would not perish but have eternal life” (John. 3:16).

***Prayer: Lord, may we not become so attached to our good lives here on earth that we forget why you sent your Son to die for our sins. Not to avoid tragedy in this life but to prepare a perfect home for us in the next. We praise you for this hope. AMEN.***

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