

Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done

(Matthew 6:10)

7/3/16

Big Idea: As we pray that God's kingdom come and His will be done, we are affirming our allegiance to the sovereign rule of the Kingdom of God above all else. This prayer is not only for the future coming of Christ, but it is also for the spreading of God's kingdom around the world through His followers.

INTRODUCTION

Alexander the Great met another man named Alexander. But he behaved very differently from him. He was a coward. Alexander the Great spoke to him, "You either change your behavior or change your name because you are disgracing the name, Alexander." We as God's children are to behave like children of God. Are we behaving like children of God or we disgracing God's name. How are we to behave? I believe God has shown us how to behave in the Word of God, particularly in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. Jesus taught His followers how to live in His kingdom. One vital element of Christian living is prayer. The disciples watched Jesus and noticed how important prayer was to the life of Christ. Therefore, they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus in the Lord's Prayer provided a pattern how we ought to pray.

The Lord's Prayer is divided into two major sections: 1) The first section focuses on God's glory as to who He is and 2) the second section focuses on man's needs. To start off, Jesus addressed God as "Our Father, who is in heaven." We acknowledge that God is our Abba, our Daddy, with whom we have an intimate relationship. We have seen how our Heavenly Father is our lover, who sent His only begotten Son to die for the penalty of our sin. Our Heavenly Father is our shepherd, who leads and guides us. Thirdly, our Heavenly Father is our provider, who has infinite resources to meet our needs.

When we have a proper view of God, then we can approach Him with great confidence. In this prayer, there are six requests. The first three point to God, namely, "Hallowed be Your name," about which Pastor Jason spoke last week. God's name speaks about God's character and reputation. We are to hallow His name by revering and respecting God.

In verse 10, we take note of the second and third requests Jesus has toward God, namely, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." I am dividing my message three sections: "Whose Kingdom Is It?" "What Is God's Kingdom?" And "When Will the Kingdom come?" You can follow along with me on the sermon outline printed in your bulletin.

A. Whose Kingdom Is It?

Too often when we pray, we have a long list of requests or sometimes demands we have for God. The emphasis is on our kingdom/ our well-being instead of God's kingdom/ His well being. We have a tendency to be self-centered rather God-centered in our prayer requests. We are interested in our reputation instead of God's reputation. Jesus makes it very clear that He is praying that God's kingdom come, God's will be done. Is that our desire? Prayer is not trying to get God to do what we want or to provide for our selfish desires. Instead, a big part of prayer is acknowledging God's character and seeking out

God's will. As we understand what His will is for our life, then we align and adjust our will to match His will.

Here Jesus is pointing out our priority in life. We are not created to build our own kingdom, but to build God's kingdom. It is imperative that we understand why God created us. God designed us to have fellowship with God. The Bible says that He has called us into fellowship with His Son. God desires for us to enjoy His presence. Our ultimate purpose is to give glory to God. (1 Cor. 10:31) "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Life is not about us, but all about God. When we pray, we elevate God and not ourselves. We ask God to bring on His kingdom. But what is God's kingdom?

B. What is God's Kingdom?

1. The Coming Messiah to reign

The word "kingdom" deals with the right to rule and reign over a kingdom. To pray "Your kingdom come" is to pray for the program of the eternal God to be fulfilled. This involves Christ to come and reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. His program, His plan and His will should preoccupy our lives and our prayers.

If there is a kingdom, then there is definitely a king. Who is this king? In Scripture, a Messiah was prophesied to come to reign. The Jews thought that this Messiah would come to deliver them physically from the Romans. However, it was God's plan to deliver them spiritually first. Jesus Christ came to set us free from the bondage of sin by dying on the cross to pay the penalty of our sin. Three days later, He rose again to conquer death. He came to provide salvation for all. It is embracing Christ and believing what He has done for us that give us access into His kingdom. (2 Peter 3:9) "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." It is God's will and desire for all to come into His Kingdom and to follow after Him.

God's kingdom is desperately needed on earth right now. There is so much wickedness, evil, hatred, murder, injustice, bitterness all over the world. The world is in a total mess and man cannot solve it. Their hearts need to be changed. They need to be saved before there can be a change of behavior. We need to recognize our sinfulness and our need for God to reign in our lives. Man needs to be redeemed.

2. God's Invitation to His Kingdom

Jesus has taken the initiative to pursue us. He extends an invitation to all. God's kingdom is available to everyone. (Rom. 10:9) "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Trusting Christ as our savior is the first step in letting Christ be our king.

3. Opposition to God's People to Reign

Satan, who is the ruler of this world that God permitted him to, is doing all that he can to hinder God's kingdom from advancing. One of the ways is to keep us busy engaging in good spiritual activities, making us think that we are spiritual. We look holy on the outside, but we are going through the process mechanically. We fool ourselves that we

are growing in Christ. Believers might be actively serving in the church. We deceive ourselves to believe that God is pleased with all of our good works. God is much more concerned about our heart and for our love for him than our work for Him.

If Satan cannot get us busy, then he will get us comfortable. Before long, we get complacent, and we are preoccupied by our plan instead of God's plan/God's mission. It is easy to only think about ourselves, our needs, our wants. We choose to be religious instead of being committed to Christ. We feel content and we put ourselves on cruise control. Before we know it, we become stagnant. We wonder why there is nothing exciting is happening in our lives. Life is the same old, same old. We have missed out on the newness of life we can have with Christ.

God has given us the mandate to make disciples of all nations. That is God's will; that is our mission on this earth. The Evil One will distract us with busyness and deceive us with comfort so that we will not advance God's kingdom.

4. Allegiance to the King, who reigns

Although we live in this world, we are not of this world. We are only sojourners, and our final destination is in heaven. This earth is our temporal residence. Our permanent residence or our citizenship is in heaven. (Phil. 3:20) "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

Because of all that Christ has done for us, we owe him our life. (Gal. 2:20) "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (2 Cor. 5:15) "And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."

Since Jesus is our King, may we recommit our allegiance to Him to follow him and to do His will. If we are going to pray for His kingdom to come, then it is vital that He is reigning in the kingdom of our heart, where He lives within us. May we pursue to advance His kingdom. May we make every effort to pass the Good News to those that do not know Christ. For it is His desire that none should perish, but all to come to know Him. This is His will. [We have discussed Whose Kingdom Is It? What is God's Kingdom? I want to look at the final point by asking When will the kingdom come?]

C. When Will the Kingdom Come?

1. The Kingdom is Delayed

Because God's people have rejected Christ, the kingdom is delayed. In Scripture, more specific prophecies were given in Mt. 24 giving us clues as to when he will return. But before his return, we want the world to get a glimpse of God's Kingdom on earth.

2. A Glimpse of God's Kingdom on Earth

Let us look back to the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6. Note the remarkable structure of the opening of this prayer. All three of these parallel clauses are modified by the last

clause of the petition: “on earth as it is in heaven.” What this means is that disciples are to pray that: God’s name would be hallowed... as it is in heaven, so on earth; your name is being hallowed in heaven, may it also be hallowed on earth. God’s kingdom would come... as it is in heaven, so on earth; we know you rule in heaven. Although you might not rule on earth yet, may the world get a glimpse of what that looks like as Christ reign in believers. God’s will would be done... as it is in heaven, so on earth. This is not a prayer that God’s kingdom would come sometime in the near future, but a prayer that God’s kingdom would be presently on earth just as it is in heaven. How? By His name being hallowed and his will being done. This is a glimpse of heaven on earth.

God is not now ruling on earth as He rules in heaven. We pray that Christ will return and establish His earthly kingdom, which refers to future Millennium, where Christ will reign for 1000 years.

God has called us to live as if the king were already in residence on this earth. He is residing within us in our hearts. God is using the Church to give a glimpse of what the kingdom of God looks like in heaven. In order for this to take place, we need to show our allegiance to our King. May we place Christ on the throne of our life. May we surrender ourselves to God, may we humble ourselves before God and submit to His will by obeying His Word. May we allow God to rule in our life. May we understand kingdom principles, which is what Jesus preached through the Sermon on the Mount. As we live the way Jesus has instructed us to live, then the world will see God working in us. We will be a shining light in a dark and decadent world.

3. Kingdom Comes After the Gospel Is Preached to the Whole World

One of the clear signs of when Christ will return is recorded in Matt. 24:14, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” Things are not looking so good in this world. We see in this verse that Christ will not come back until the gospel is preached to all nations. Although the gospel is spreading rapidly, there are still many unreached people groups that have not heard about Christ. God has mandated us to pass this Good News to the world. The vision of our church is to make God-loving and compassionate disciples of Christ among all nations. Our church is committed to not only making disciples in our local Jerusalem, but to send workers into the remotest part of the earth with the gospel.

I would like to send off a family that has been with us for some time, Henry and Laura and their two daughters, Melody and Ellie. They will be leaving for East Asia this week. The church is partnering with Henry and Laura and their family as they do ministry overseas. We want to work closely with them. We want to support them as oversea members by praying for them and keeping close connection with them. Henry came to believe in Christ at HCC as a Rice student. He and Laura are an integral part of this church family and have been faithful servants in several areas including teaching Sunday School, leading BASIC small groups, building relationships and discipling brothers and sisters. They have a heart to proclaim God’s Word to the nations, especially to unreached people groups. After receiving affirmation through prayer and the leaders of this church, they feel called to go to the field. We want to support them and we ask our people to pray for them as they minister for the Lord. I would like for us to bow and pray.

[Prayer for Henry and Laura.]

Just as Henry and Laura have committed themselves to advancing God's kingdom, we also should do likewise. May we pray –“Your kingdom come and Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” God has made it possible for us to have access to God's Kingdom when Jesus died for our sins and rose again. May we place our trust in Him and pledge our allegiance to Him to rule and reign in our life. May we bring glory to God by sharing the Good News and seeing people enter His Kingdom. May we contribute in the process of bringing God's Kingdom on earth.