

Thy Will Be Done, Thy Kingdom Come

The Big Idea – The more we align our will and our actions with God’s kingdom purposes, the more we bring the Kingdom of God into the lives of the people around us.

Read Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” These words might be the most inauthentic words ever prayed by the largest number of people. When we say these words we are saying, “God, I want what you want to happen here in my life on earth just like it is in heaven, in the place where everything is exactly the way you want it to be.” Is that really what we mean when we pray?

If we’re honest many of our prayers are more along the lines of “my kingdom come, my will be done on earth and then it will be heaven”. We want God to do things on our agenda, our kingdom, our will, so with God’s help we can be happy and content.

When we truly understand what praying for God’s kingdom means, our lives will be changed. Jesus was not saying to be a good Christian and wait until He comes again or you die, whichever comes first. He was saying, “Be a person who says to God, ‘God I want your kingdom to come here and now. I want your kingdom to break into this world, this earth, and this world’s kingdoms. I want your kingdom to happen here and now just like it is in Heaven.’ ”

The reality is that God’s will is not being done on earth and his kingdom is not come. When we pray the Lord’s Prayer we are saying that we want to live our lives in a way to move the Lordship of God to earth so it is like heaven. It is a prayer for us to act in obedience to God. When we pray this prayer for real, we are attempting to align our hearts with what God wants us to do.

HOME GROUP CORNER

LEARNING & GROWING TOGETHER

(For those using *Taking Strides* in their group study)

Interacting with the most recent sermon(s)

SYNOPSIS OF THE SERMON

In 5 minutes or less, briefly give a synopsis of the most recent sermon(s) preached at Forcey: *Together We Pray* (Oct. 11th), and, *Together We Worship* (Oct. 18th).

GETTING THE CONVERSATION STARTED

- What stood out to you in this sermon? Mention any insights, principles, or observations from the message that you found to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
- Please share how the Spirit spoke to you - what was he prompting you to think, say, or do?

Jesus lived like he prayed. He set the example for us. In John 6:38 he says, "I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me". As Jesus lived it was "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done" every step of the way, all the way to the cross. We are called to follow His example.

DISCUSSION

We must play our part. In his book *Wide Awake* Erwin McManus puts it this way, *"The world needs you at your best. The planet is made better or worse by the people we choose to become. If you live a diminished life, it's not only you who loses, but the world loses, and humanity loses. There is a story to be written by your life, and though it may never inspire a graphic novel, it is a heroic tale nonetheless. Though you may not recognize it, there is a greatness within you."* Greatness isn't about talent or magnificence, it's about being a person who not just prays but lives "they kingdom come, thy will be done."

1. How do you feel about the idea of following Jesus' example of obedience?
2. Where would you like to see God's will being done on earth?
3. Do you believe your life can make the planet significantly "better or worse"? Why, or why not?
4. How do you think you could play a part in God's will being done on earth as it is in heaven? How could your family or home group make a real difference?

5. What challenges do you foresee in living this out?

(Taken from Big Idea Discussion Guide - Celebration Generosity - http://communitychristian.org/user_images/big_idea/0-1331909237.pdf)

BIBLE STUDY – THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Key Questions:

1. Read the following quotation of John Wimber - *Kingdom Come* - then answer the question that follows.

“For the first twelve years of my Christian life, I gave little thought to the kingdom of God. My pastors and Bible teachers had taught that the kingdom would come at the second coming of Christ and, therefore, had little significance in our lives today...I find my neglect of the kingdom remarkable because it is so clearly at the center of Jesus’ teaching...I [now realize] that at the very heart of the gospel lies the kingdom of God, and that power for effective evangelism and discipleship relates directly to our understanding and experiencing the kingdom today.”

Do you give any thought to the kingdom of God? What does it mean to you? What significance do you think it has for our everyday lives?

2. Use the Scripture References below to develop a list of characteristics that describe the Kingdom of God:

(Example)

Characteristic: Messiah Will Rule

Isaiah 9:6-7, 11:1-5, 16:5, 42:1, Jer: 23:5-6, Ezek 37:22-35, Zech 9:9-10

Acts 2:31-36, 1 Cor. 15:24-28, Phil 2:9-11, Heb 2:7-8

Characteristic: _____

Isaiah 32:1, 16, Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15-17

Romans 3:21-26, Phil 1:11, 3:9

Characteristic: _____

Psa 1:5-6, Mal 4:1

2 Thes 1:8, Rev 19:19-21

Characteristic: _____

Hosea 2:19-20

Rom 5:5-8, 8:39, 1 Cor 13

Characteristic: _____

Hos 2:18, Ezek 34:25

John 10:28-29, Rev 21:4

Characteristic: _____

Isa 2:4, Ezek 34:25

Phl 4:6-7, Rom 5:1, 14:17

Characteristic: _____

Isa 65:20,

James 5:14-15

Characteristic: _____

Jer 31:31-34, Ezek 37:26

Heb 8:6-13; 9:1-18, 1John 2:3-14

Characteristic: _____

Isa 33:24, Micah 7:19-20, Jer 31:34

Gal 1:4, Heb 9:26-27, 2 Cor 5:17, Col 3:10

Characteristic: _____

Joel 2:28-31, Ezek 37:14

Acts 2:1-21, Eph 1:13-14

Characteristic: _____

Ezek 37:26-28, 43:9, 48:35,

1 Cor 3:16, 6:19,

Characteristic: _____

Isa 40:5, 60:1-3, Hag 2:7

John 1:14, 2:11, 11:4, 1 Pet 4:13, 5:10, Rev. 21:11, 23, 26

Characteristic: _____

Hos 13:14

1 Cor 15:20-58, Rev 21:4

Characteristic: _____

Isa 41:17-20

Acts 4:32-35

Characteristic: _____

Isa 35:1-2, 9-10, Zech 10:7

Gal 5:22, Rev 12:11-12, John 2:1-11, Luke 5:4-11, Mark 6:30-44