

Thy Kingdom Come, They Will Be Done

Matthew 6:10

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Thy Kingdom Come

We have been studying the Lord's Prayer. First, we had an overview of the prayer, and last week, we probed the meaning of "Our Father, Which art in heaven, Hallowed by Thy Name."

As we all know, there are two activities which are to be constant and unceasing part of a believer's life, and those are studying the Word of God, and to pray.

Prayer is vital for the life of a believer in Christ. It is the drawing in of the presence of God that gives us life. And yet it is important that we know how to pray, or I should say, the way we ought to pray.

Some of you may have heard that prayer is talking to God and you should talk to God just like you talk to someone.

We say that because we are trying to teach people how to pray in the easiest way that people can relate. But once we become a little more mature as a Christian, we must know how to pray.

How to pray does not mean we have to use certain words to use or certain way to address God. It means praying according to God's will.

So this morning we come to verse 10, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth, as it is in heaven."

"Thy kingdom come." Just what does it mean? It is three simple words in English, four simple words in Greek, what does it mean?

In our prayer, and our life as the citizens of the kingdom of God, Jesus is the ruler of the kingdom of God, and our priority is the kingdom of God. And in our prayer, we pray according to God's will for the kingdom of God.

A true child of God concerns himself not so much with his own plans and his own desires, but the plan of God which is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ who is our Master.

Therefore, praying the right way is not letting God in on your plan, but letting yourself in on God's plan.

However, our prayers are so filled with our personal concerns and desires, and our own personal reign and causes.

So when you pray "Thy kingdom comes" means that you genuinely confess Christ as Lord and King in your life, and realizing salvation is not just a ticket to heaven, but it is to realize that you are no longer your own, but under the will of your Master Christ Jesus, and you seek His kingdom first, and His righteousness believing that all other things will be taken care of. That is what it means to say "Thy kingdom comes."

And at the same time we must realize that it is so counter-cultural. Our culture says man is the master of his own house. Children cannot wait to become adults and have their own life because they want to be the master of their own life and their own fate. They arrange their own affairs; they chart their own course of life, and to govern their own lives. That is the message of this human society, which is basically selfish and self-centered. "Thy kingdom come" certainly goes against the grain because it is all about the kingdom of God, not about yourself.

I have said many times before and I say it again, today, the church is not teaching the Word of God. Just like the Jews of Jesus's time, they taught the traditions which were loosely based on the Word of God, but in essence, they were mostly perversion of the Word of God. We too today, the church does not teach the Word of God, but traditions.

I even hear some preachers saying that we need to go to God and demand certain things from God and quote verse like John 14:14, which says, "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it," and tell people that God is obligated to listen to you, and if you are persistent just like the persistent widow in Luke 18. But that is a gross misinterpretation of the Bible.

People today often try to fulfill their desires and find the verse that gives approval to that particular desire. That is like buying something you don't need and come up with reasons why you needed that item.

Now when you sincerely believe, and genuinely confess Christ as Lord of your life, you will live out that proclamation and by living out that proclamation, you bring your life in affirmation of the direction of your Master Christ Jesus. Then your own causes are only valid insofar as they agree with and in accordance with the eternal causes of God revealed in Christ.

I know that is a mouthful to swallow. I will say it again. **You genuinely confess Christ as your Master in your life daily, and seek to bring your life in**

affirmation of the direction of your Master Jesus, then your own will comes in harmony with the eternal causes of God revealed in Christ.

Thy kingdom, whose is the kingdom? It's Thy kingdom. Who is Thy? Our Father. It is not a human kingdom, it is God's kingdom. The church is not my church or our church or the pastor's church, but it is God's church.

When you truly grasp the concept of the church being the kingdom of God and it belongs to God, our whole attitude changes. You will have totally different outlook on your church. It is not about who is in charge or this is MY church, but it is God's and Jesus is the head of the church.

Whose kingdom is it? God's kingdom.

Secondly, the kingdom, the kingdom of God, in **Luke 4:43** Jesus said, "**I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.**" The kingdom is why Jesus came. In other words, kingdom is the reason why Jesus came to earth and we too must understand that the kingdom is what is important.

What is the kingdom? Jesus spoke of the kingdom in three ways, past, present and future.

The past kingdom embodied Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as we see in **Matthew 8:11**.

The present kingdom is already around us. **Luke 17:21** Jesus said, "**The kingdom of God is in your midst.**"

The future kingdom is right here in this prayer. "**Thy kingdom come.**"

Now how can the kingdom be already there in the past, and in the present, but yet need to come in the future?

Jesus is not talking about the political kingdom as we all know.

If you look at the verse 10, it says, "**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.**" Just as God's reign and rule are established in heaven, the same is to be established on the earth.

The universal kingdom of God in heaven, that kingdom is what we seek in our prayer. That kingdom is to come to this earth. The kingdom in which Christ's rule on the earth is what we are praying for.

Then how will this physical rule of Christ come to earth? Number one, it comes from **conversion** from Satan's rule to Christ's rule. In other words, we need to pray for the lost people.

To begin with, we must make certain that our children know Christ and our parents know Christ and to know what it means to be the follower of Christ.

We need to pray for our friends and loved ones who do not know Christ. We need to pray for the churches to preach the Word of God, not traditions.

Most of all, we need to pray for the lost people and all the missionaries.

Secondly, the conversion to the kingdom of God begins with **repentance**.

Conversion is not just accepting Christ as my Savior. Accepting means something I have done and finished with. It is over and done with and no need to do it again.

We need to know God and that is something that takes a life time, and at the same time, we need to live out the kingdom characteristics that are spelled out in the Beatitude. And to do so, it is not possible if we try to do it, but it is possible if we become more and more like Christ by becoming a humble servant of the Master Jesus Christ.

All of these begin with repentance. Without repentance, there is no salvation. **Acts 11:18** says, "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life." And In **Luke 13:3**, "But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

We saw back in Matthew 3:2, Jesus said, "Repent, for the kingdom is at hand." And in **Mark 1:14 and 15** it says, "Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom. The kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe the good news." Repentance is essential; that is why John the Baptist preached and Jesus also called for it, and even in Revelations, repentance is called out in all 7 churches. That is how essential repentance is and a single criterion for entering the kingdom of God is repentance.

There is another element that is immensely important. First, we need conversion, and second, the conversion comes with repentance. Thirdly, conversion demands an act of the will. Jesus told the scribes in **Mark 12:34**, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." What did He mean by that? He meant you have the head knowledge; you just haven't made the choice yet.

There are many people who know it in their head and even think that they know it in their heart, but so many have not crossed the line because there was no willful choice made.

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36)." It is an internal one; it is in the heart. And this kingdom is the one we should seek just as it says in Matthew 6:33, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."

Luke 16:16 says, "The gospel of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it." What does it mean? In Jesus's day, there were hundreds of revolutionaries willing to use great violence to usher in the physical kingdom of God. While Jesus was not advocating their violence, I think He meant that we are to imitate their dedication, willingness to sacrifice, and their passion to see the Messiah come to reign.

We ought to pray "Thy kingdom come" in the sense that men be converted and be rushing to the life in the reign of Christ.

Thy Will Be Done

"Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." We are going to try to understand what it means. Why did Jesus say this phrase since He should have known that God is sovereign and His will is to prevail, so why?

If I ask you who lives in your Christian life, you might answer that "not I but Christ lives in me" by quoting Galatians 2:20. But you know that even though that is the way it is supposed to be, often times, you may feel or even know that your flesh is dominating and wins the battle in a way that you are not sure exactly where indwelling Christ is. He must be somewhere in me but where was He when I made that wrong decision?

That is the paradox we live with. God is sovereign and His will is to be done in our lives too eventually, but in the mean time, we are not completely in God's will.

Psalm 40, in verse 8, David said, "I delight to do Your will, oh my God." In other words, he wanted to know God's will and wanted to do it according to it.

What did Jesus say John 4:34? He said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me." In John 6:38, Jesus reiterated by uttering, "For I came down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of Him who sent me." What does a slave do? Does the slave do what he wants to do or he does what his master wants? So Jesus taught us to pray "Thy will be done."

So it is good that we pray for God's will. But, what does it mean when we pray that way? There are people who pray, Thy will be done, but they pray it with the wrong understanding. First of all, there are people who say, Thy will be done, in an **attitude of bitter resentment**. In other words, it is to say that they cannot escape from the inevitable. That of course is due to the lack of knowledge about God.

Now there are others who say, Thy will be done, and they don't necessarily mean any bitterness or resentment; just simply **feel they are resigned**. Whatever You want to do, You do it and there is nothing I can do about it anyway.

This too is due to lack of understanding that God cares, and His heart breaks over the pain of man.

Another one that is somewhat related to this one, but slightly different is that some people, "Thy will be done" means God is going to do what He is going to do; so don't worry about it – there is no need for pleading. I don't need to pray because it's **all decided and settled**.

There are some group of believers today who sincerely and whole-hearted believe that we do not need to tell anybody about Jesus Christ because whether we talk to anyone or not, the ones who will be saved will be saved, and the others who will not be saved will not be saved no matter what we do. These are the kind of people who are always prepared to accept whatever and become acquiescent or indifferent to whatever goes on in the kingdom of God.

The primary reason our prayer life is as weak as it is, is that we don't really believe it will do much. We have taken on an attitude of passive resignation. We talk to God about something and just sort of leave it, and go on because we really don't think it will make a difference most of the time.

Once I heard a lady who lived in a house and from her bedroom window all she could see was a mountain. One day, she decided to pray that the mountain will be moved to the left so she would not have a all of mountain right outside of her window. She prayed and went to sleep. Next morning, she woke up and looked outside the window and the mountain was still there. So she said, "I did not think it was going to move anyway." That is the kind of faith we have. We say, "Thy will be done," but in reality we think as if we already know in advance that what we are asking is probably not going to happen.

Faith, we always say we need faith but you don't need lot of faith. You just need to have faith.

If you ever have grown up in a cold environment, you would know what I am about say. I used to go to the river to skate in the winter time. There are areas where the water is not so deep and in a cold winter, the water freezes and you don't have pay any money to skate. Just get your skates and go out on the ice and have fun.

When you skate, you usually skate at the edge of the pond and most of the time you just skate around in one direction. And some people who does figure skating, they usually go in further and stay out of the way of speed skaters and do their thing like turning and pirouetting, etc.

Once I was skating in a pond and it was a sizable pond. I decided to go out to the middle; I mean right down to the center of the pond where the ice is the thinnest. As I got closer to the center, I could hear the cracking sound of the ice. I got a bit scared, but I wanted to go further down to the center. Then I hear some adults yelling "Don't go to the center." I looked back and saw some adult waving a hand at me. I skated further into the center, and that is when I saw the cracks in the ice and further down, I could see the water sipping up to the top of the ice through the crack. That is when I decided to turn around and go back to the edge.

You see faith is like that. When you are standing on solid ice that may be 3ft thick, you don't have to have much faith. Just a little faith and that is good enough to know and believe that you are not going to sink into the freezing water.

But if you are standing on 1 inch thick ice, it does not matter how much faith you have. You can have the faith of million men, but you will still sink because ice is not thick enough to support your weight.

That is what faith is like. You just have to have faith and that faith has to be in Christ Jesus. But if your faith is not in Jesus, you can have the faith of million men, but you will not enter the kingdom of God.

And in prayer, it is the same thing. You need to have faith. You need to pray with faith.

"Thy will be done" what does it mean?

In **Luke 18**, there is a parable of a persistent widow who was so persistent that the judge granted her wish. In the beginning of the chapter 18 of Luke, Jesus says, "**They ought to pray and not to lose heart.**" In other words, you don't want to just stop praying, you don't want to become weary. You ought to pray always. Then Jesus tells a parable of a widow who was so persistent that the judge who heard her plea said in **verse 4**, "**Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!**" In other words, I don't have any outside pressure neither from God nor from any men, I am so sick of hearing this woman that I am going to do what she asked. Why? Because I want to get her off my back.

If an unjust judge will give justice to a badgering woman, what will a just, loving, righteous, caring God our Father give to His children?

What then is the purpose of this parable? One is that we are to pray without getting weary. Two, then is what is it that we are praying for?

We are to pray for justice. We are to pray for God's will is to be prevailed in this world. We have a right to refuse certain situations in the world. So we pray

persistently so the way of the world is changed to the way it ought to be. In other words, we ought to pray against all the wrongs in this world, the fallen-ness, the evil agenda, every movement that is against the way of God and the will of God. **We are to pray for God's will to be prevailed in this world.**

As I see the way this world is becoming, I lose my heart and I become weary. I am afraid of the world that my children are going to inherit from us. We live in a world in which the right is wrong and the wrong is right. I see the value and ethics of something is changing right before my own eyes even in a short span of 10 years, and there is nothing I can do about it. I pray about it everyday, but I get weary because I don't see any hope of tiding turning any time soon. Actually, it seems that there is no hope of ever going back.

That is what this parable of Jesus is exactly talking about. You don't like something. We as the church ought to come and pray persistently. I am sure I am not the only one here. Many of us, if not all of us, sitting here today have witnessed how the culture has changed in the last 10 years, or 20 years or 30 years and it just seems that it is getting worse and worse.

People do things in the open without any shame or guilt today and you remember just 10 years ago, people would not dare to even talk about it. I don't have to tell you specifically the kind of things because you can all think of at least one thing in your mind. What has the church done about it? We sat in the church pew eating pot luck dinner and watched the world change. We not only failed as the salt and light of the world, but we as the church also failed to pray for "Thy will be done." **We need to pray and pray against the evil of the world.**

At the same time, we need to pray that God's purpose is accomplished. Of course, God's purpose will be accomplished eventually. **Jeremiah 51:29** says, **"For every purpose of the LORD shall be performed."** There's no question that this is being done. But when we pray that God's purpose is done, as I have said earlier, we failed as the church to pray against the evil in this world and we see all kinds of evil practices as normal way of life today. Still God's purpose is accomplished eventually, but we as the church is not partaking in that accomplishment. **By praying, we become partakers of God's purpose being accomplished in this world because that is what it means to be the kingdom citizens.**

So we not only pray that God's purpose is accomplished, by doing so, we are praying according to His will also.

Therefore **God's will and His purpose is also His command for us.** That is why, at the same time, we must be obedient to His will. **Psalm 119:27** and on, it says, **"Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works, My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word."** Then in verse 30, **"I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments**

have I laid before me. I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O LORD, put me not to shame. I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.” And in verse 34, “Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.” Then in 44, “So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever. And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.” And in verse 47, “And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.” This is the prayer of the one who truly understands the teaching of Jesus’s prayer set before us in this Lord’s Prayer that we have been studying.

How is it that we cannot pray like this? Sin. Because of sin. Sin has overpowered us and we are concerned about our immediate worries of this world and we forget to pray “Thy will be done.” That is why Jesus taught us to pray “Thy will be done.”

Let us pray.