

Date: July 20, 2025

Title: Thy Kingdom Come

Passage: Matthew 6:9-15

Summary:

I. What is the "kingdom of God"?

II. What does "Thy kingdom come" mean?

III. How do you get to be a part of God's kingdom?

IV. What are we to do? Pray "Thy kingdom come" in us, around us, and before us.

Key Truths:

- Kingdom of God = His reign, His sovereign governance and His actions.
- God's kingdom is essentially His reign over His people for their good and His glory. God's reign is not just absolute sovereignty but it's also a redemptive reign that transforms hearts and creates obedience.
- The kingship of God can be seen through all of history that is ultimately culminated through Jesus Christ.
- God's kingdom: "Already but not yet" God's kingdom is already here but not fully here. God's kingdom has already come (Jesus has come) but God's rule will come to its widest extent (Jesus' Second Coming)

Application:

- Pray "Thy kingdom come" within us.
- Pray "Thy kingdom come" around us.
- Pray "Thy kingdom come" before us.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What does it mean for God to be king over your heart?
- What are some areas where you need to address or grow to better reflect Christ as king (within you or around you)?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

Introduction

Human fascination with royalty

- Today: many have shown fascination with the British royal family.
- Why? We have an implicit attraction to kingdoms because we were created by the One True King.

- If we reject God, then we will look to some other "king" to adore and look for someone else to save us.
- But if we submit to Jesus Christ, we find the true King and His kingdom.

Passage:

Matthew 6:9-15

Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

EXPOSITION

Context of Passage

The Lord's Prayer

- First petition: Hallowed be Thy name
 - God's name is to be preeminent in all things.
- Second petition: Thy kingdom come

I. WHAT IS THE "KINGDOM OF GOD"?

- The word "kingdom" occurs 49 times in the gospel of Matthew
- Jesus' first words at the beginning of His ministry

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

"Kingdom of God"

- Meaning = God's kingly rule
 - His reign, His sovereign governance and His actions.
- Quote: "God's people in God's place under God's rule and blessing." (Graeme Goldsworthy)
- So, God's kingdom is essentially His reign over His people for their good and His glory.
- God's reign is not just absolute sovereignty but it's also a redemptive reign that transforms hearts and creates obedience.
- What is the Bible about?

- God's plan of salvation. His promise to restore His kingdom that is to be fulfilled through His Son, Jesus Christ.

II. WHAT DOES "THY KINGDOM COME" MEAN?

- Is it about Jesus' Second Coming?
- Is it about saving souls?
 - Both and more.

Observations

1) There is a general rule of God over the entire Universe and everyone and everything in it.

- God is over all and everything is within His sovereign control.
 - God provides both general and specific care over the world.
 - He is ruling all the time, even now. Nothing occurs out of His sovereignty.
- Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein."
- Psalm 103:19 "The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all!"

2) God allowed Satan to exert dominion over the world of the disobedient ones.

- God is expanding His kingdom through change of heart - through the crucifixion, not compulsion.
- Satan has been given power in this world but he is ultimately under God's authority.
 - See: story of Job.
- Luke 4:5-7 "And the devil took Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to Him, To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If You, then, will worship me, it will all be Yours."
 - Satan points to "authority" and "glory" in the world. Who gave it to him? God.
 - But even though Satan has power, it is not the same as God's.
 - God is God. Not Satan.
 - Satan has no autonomy outside of God's will.
- Why is Satan allowed to do what he does? We don't know but we trust in God's sovereign good will.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

James 1:2-4

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

- History of Israel.
 - While they were allowed a human king that began with Solomon and with David as a wonderful king, things broke down through sin and they were in exiled.
 - Thereafter they longed for a new king and new kingdom (the Messiah).
- The kingship of God can be seen through all of history that is ultimately culminated through Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus shows not only what true kingship looks like but He also destroyed Satan's kingdom.

1 John 3:8

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

Matthew 4:23

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

Matthew 9:35

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

- Jesus performing miracles was undoing the work of the devil, culminating on the crucifixion of Jesus.

Colossians 2:14-15

by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

- The resurrection showed the price has been paid and victory has occurred.

Common Question

If God's kingdom has already arrived, then why do we have a world full of so much evil and suffering?

- "Already but not yet"
 - God's kingdom is already here but not fully here.
 - God's kingdom has already come (Jesus has come through His First Coming) but God's rule will come to its widest and most complete extent (Jesus' Second Coming)

"As we pray 'your kingdom come' we affirm that Jesus Christ has triumphed over the powers of sin and death, but we also declare that the joy and freedom of life within the reign of God are not yet a full reality." We are not praying for it to come into existence, but to come into dominance. (Darrell Guder)

God's progress of His kingdom is gradual, not instant.

Matthew 13:31-33

He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

- The troubles of this world makes us pray "Thy kingdom come."
- Analogy: Allies victory on D-Day. When the Allies established the beachhead victory on the shores of France, victory was clear. But the entire war was not over as battles still were to be fought.
- Here, Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected. The beachhead victory has been claimed. Now, we know the certain end.
 - So what to do?
 - We are to go out and proclaim "Jesus has won the victory."

III. HOW DO YOU GET TO BE A PART OF GOD'S KINGDOM?

- By becoming a disciple of Jesus - John 3 (being born again), Colossians 1:13, 2 Timothy 4:18.
- By believing the proclaimed message of the Good News.

John 3:3-8

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and

you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Ezekiel 36:24-26

I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

- How can you be saved?
 - Recognize there is nothing you can do to be saved.
 - Pray to God for His mercy for His salvation.

Colossians 1:13

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

- Who delivered? God. Not us.

2 Timothy 4:18

The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- Who rescues? God.

Luke 12:32

“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

- What are we to do?
 - We proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.
 - God's kingdom advances through the proclamation of His Word (Jesus has died and resurrected on our behalf and He is on His throne).
- We are not to manipulate people into the kingdom of God.
- We trust in the power of God in the lives of others.

"I have made Jesus Savior but not Lord"

- False understanding. Not Biblical.
- God is Savior because He is king!

IV. WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

I. Pray Thy kingdom come within us.

- Confession: In our flesh, God is not king in our hearts.
- Question: What are some things within you where you don't reflect Christ as king?
- Instead: we humbly submit to God.
- Question: What areas seek your own way?
 - Personal success? (In school or in work)
 - Misperception: Ultimately we see ourselves on the throne.
 - Stuff?
 - Misperception: The more stuff we have the more happy we will be.
 - Sexuality
 - Misperception: If it feels good, do it. Treat our bodies as we please. Choose our own entertainment and desires.
- Instead:
 - Success: do all things for the glory of God. Point to Him and work unto Him and His glory.
 - Stuff: help me to use things for Your glory.
 - Do you use them for the advancement of God's kingdom?
 - Recognize that you are only a steward.
 - Sexuality
 - I am being obedient because of the king.

What does it mean for God to be king over our hearts?

"No other person, no power, no position, no possession should be allowed to rule in our heart. God must be the absolute and uncontested Sovereign. For it is imperative that His kingdom come in our hearts before it can come to rule in the world at large. Heaven must be in us before we can be in heaven. God's kingdom must be in us before we can be in God's kingdom. It must begin in our hearts."

(Spiros Zodhiates)

II. Pray Thy kingdom come around us.

- Our neighborhood, our home.
- What are some areas around us that need God's kingdom reign?
- Go out in the darkness - be light in the world.
- We need to go out and make a difference.

III. Pray Thy kingdom come before us. Come sooner. Come ahead of us.

- bring true peace, justice, and freedom around the world.

1 Chronicles 29:11

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all.