

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PART 2: THE KINGDOM

Sermon Notes

Text: Matthew 6:9-11, Colossians 1:9-14

Introduction

Kingdom: The sphere of influence in which someone's will is effective

"Jesus never came to establish a government upon the people by force. He did not even talk about political systems. He came to rule in the hearts of people, and not by the establishment of political power. He asks to live in you, not to control your state." – Ravi Zacharias

"...He asks for the human heart; He will have it entirely to Himself He demands it unconditionally; and forthwith His demand is granted. Wonderful! In defiance of time and space, the soul of man, with all its powers and faculties, becomes an annexation to the empire of Christ..."
- Napoleon

How do we pray for God's kingdom to come and will to be done?

1. Ask him to transform this world to look more like his

The world we live in is broken, and humans intuitively sense a better world just beyond our grasp.

"Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A

duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire: well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world" - C.S. Lewis

John 18:36 "My kingdom is not of this world"

"When we pray for his Kingdom to come, we are asking Him to superimpose the rules, order, and benefits of His world over this one until this one looks like His. That's what happens when the sick are healed or the demonized are set free. His world collides with the world of darkness, and His world always wins. Our battle is always a battle for dominion—a conflict of kingdoms" - Bill Johnson

A central theme of Jesus' teaching was the nearness of the kingdom of God.

Mark 1:15 "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

To pray "Your kingdom come" means we consider what His world is like, and pray for those things to happen here.

1. Ask him to redeem the lost

Colossians 1:13 "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Becoming a Christian is about moving from one kingdom to another.

The Lord's prayer is an announcement of a new exodus. Just as God redeemed Israel from slavery in Egypt, he is redeeming us from slavery to sin and death.

Romans 6:18 "You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness."

2. Asking him empower his kingdom people

Colossians 1: 9-10 We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.”

2 Corinthians 5 - We are Christ’s ambassadors

Praying for God’s kingdom to come includes praying that we would be faithful and fruitful participants in the project.

Colossians 1:12 “[The Father] has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.”

“When God wants to take charge of the world, he doesn't send in the tanks. He sends in the poor and the meek” - N.T. Wright

Conclusion:

Jesus came to us as an ambassador. He started the project of transforming our world to look more like his. He redeemed us from slavery to sin. And now he is sending us out to participate in his kingdom building mission.

Life Group Discussion

1. What was one take-out for you from the message Sunday?
2. How can prayer help establish and expand God’s kingdom?
3. Read Colossians 1:9-14
 - Which verse or idea stands out you you the most?
 - Compare and contrast this prayer to the Lord’s prayer (Matthew 6:9-11). Which elements are similar? Which are different?

- Paul prayed that the Colossians would be filled with the knowledge of God’s will. Do you ever struggle to know what God’s will is? How can we discover his will? Share any personal stories you have of God revealing his will to you.

4. Jesus said “The Kingdom of God is near” (Mark 1:15). What did he mean by that? His next words were “Repent and believe the good news.” What does repentance have to do with the kingdom?

5. What is our responsibility in establishing and expanding God’s kingdom on earth (other than prayer). What’s Jesus’ responsibility? What is one step you can take today to be a more effective “ambassador” (1 Corinthians 5).

6. Pray together:

- a) Part of praying for God’s kingdom to come means thinking about what life in his kingdom is like, and praying for life here to look more like that. Brainstorm here:
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- b) Pray for our church & the 28 Days of Prayer
- c) Pray for the lost of Penticton
- d) Pray for God to empower you to be kingdom ambassadors
- e) Other requests:
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