

Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven

Matthew 6:9-13

Let me show you a picture. Do you know where I took this picture? It is from our sanctuary. I was so glad to have the Lord's Prayer decorated in our sanctuary.

The Lord's Prayer is [THE Model Prayer](#) because it was given by Jesus Christ to his disciples as an example of how to pray. It is also the [Kingdom Prayer](#). It reveals not only how we should pray but also how we should live out the prayer as God's Kingdom people. So, when we pray for our spouses, children, grandchildren, our church, Carleton UMC, our nation, and the world, all the prayers we pray have to resemble and follow the message and spirit of the Lord's Prayer. It means that our prayers have to be the Kingdom Prayer. We must pray for God's loving and transforming reign over our spouses, children, grandchildren, Carleton UMC, our country, and the world.

Also, the Lord's Prayer is a very strange prayer. Why? Quoting from a commentator: ["It \[The Lord's Prayer\] is prayed in all churches, but it never mentions church. It is prayed on all Sundays, but it never mentions Sunday. It is called the 'Lord's Prayer,' but it never mentions 'Lord.' Indeed, this prayer needs to become strange to us again in order to reshape our spiritual lives."](#)

John Crossan, *The Greatest Prayer* (2010), 1.

As we pray the Lord's Prayer and strive to live out the Prayer, we will be reshaped and transformed in God's hands to be His Kingdom agents on earth. That is why the Lord's Prayer is a very strange and revolutionary.

Let us reflect on the meaning of the Scripture today.

First, "Your Kingdom Come."

Jesus commands us not only to pray for God's Kingdom to come on earth, but also to prioritize seeking God's Kingdom and His righteousness in the present. ["But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."](#) (Matthew 6:33 NRSV)

What is the relationship between the Kingdom of God and righteousness? Righteousness is both a requirement for and a manifestation of God's Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is the fulfillment of righteousness, which comes through our faith in Jesus Christ.

The Greek word for “seek” is ζῆτέω zētēō. It is not just seeking the Kingdom of God. It means we have to **think about, meditate on, inquire into, strive after, aim at, and desire** the Kingdom of God. It means giving ourselves fully to understand, share, and reveal the value and beauty of God’s Kingdom on earth.

The Kingdom of God is the loving reign of God over His creation and people. I shared with you **a picture of God’s Kingdom from Revelation 7:9-10**. At the center of the Kingdom, there is God’s throne and the slain Lamb, which symbolizes God’s love and grace through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Also, there is a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and the Lamb. In God’s Kingdom, there is no barrier of race, ethnicity, nationality, and culture. Their sins are cleansed and they praise God’s liberation in a loud voice together. **“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!”** (Revelation 7:10 NRSV)

Let me share with you Johannes Verkuyl’s understanding of the Kingdom of God, which is very conducive.

“The kingdom of God is that new order of affairs begun in Christ which, when finally completed by him, will involve a proper restoration not only of man’s relationship to God but also of those between sexes, generations, races, and even between man and nature. This is the message of the prophets, and this is what John saw in his visions recorded in the book of Revelation. This too is the testimony of the Apostles who join Peter in affirming, “We await a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Pet. 3:13). What then is the kingdom? It is the creation which has achieved its goal. Chaos will be overcome, every antimessianic tendency will have been erased, and God’s liberating acts will have reached their final goal. The whole of the church’s deep and wide mission agenda must receive its focus and orientation in this kingdom perspective.”

Johannes Verkuyl, *Contemporary Missiology* (1978), 198.

Then, how does God’s Kingdom come?

We have to think about this question very seriously.

“God’s Kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace, we can believe His holy Word, act out His Word, and live godly lives here in time and there in eternity. By doing so, we can experience and reveal God’s Kingdom on earth.” (Paraphrased from Martin Luther’s Small Catechism).

Second, “Your Will Be Done on Earth As It Is in Heaven.”

Our Kingdom life on earth is a process in which we continually tune our will into God’s Will. Facing tribulation and death, Jesus prayed for God’s Will to be done

in Gethsemane. How many times? Three times. “**My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.**” (Matthew 26:42 NRSV)

When we pray, “Your Will Be Done on Earth As It Is in Heaven,” we desire, anticipate, wholeheartedly believe, and expect God’s Will to be fulfilled on earth. Do we truly exercise this kind of faith when we pray the Lord’s Prayer?

Furthermore, when we pray, “Your Will Be Done on Earth as It Is in Heaven,” our eyes should be fixed on the final stage of history: the actualized Kingdom of God, the New Heaven and the New Earth as described in Revelation, and Jesus Christ’s final victory.

This perspective empowers us to endure any trials and challenges we face as we actively participate in Jesus Christ’s Kingdom Movement on earth. Knowing our final place in God’s redemptive story enables us to bear present suffering with hope, recognizing that it is transient compared to the eternal glory in God’s Kingdom.

Then what is God’s will? God’s will is for the world to be more like God’s Kingdom. God’s will is for us to live our lives as God’s Kingdom people and actualize God’s loving and transforming reign in our lives, family, community, and the world.

As I mentioned in my sermon two weeks ago, our prayer is a promise and a determination to live out its words. So, when we pray, “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” we promise God, “God, if you need me to fulfill your will, here I am; use me to carry out your will on earth.” If God’s will is for the world to be more like God’s Kingdom, then when we pray, “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” we pledge to give our lives fully to be used for God’s Kingdom to be manifested in our lives. That is why the Lord’s Prayer is called the “Most Dangerous Prayer.” The Lord’s Prayer is about our lives and our full commitment to God’s Kingdom. That is why the Lord’s Prayer is a “Revolutionary Prayer.” For the revolution of the world, we are to seek God’s Kingdom first.

Application

Let me share with you a prayer by a fireman from Kansas. His name is A.W. “Smokey” Linn. He retired from the Wichita Fire Department in 1975. He wrote “[A Fireman’s Prayer](#)” after he’d been at a call involving children trapped in a burning apartment building. The firefighters could see the children in the windows but could not rescue them due to the iron bars that the apartment owner had installed. All they could do was try to contain the fire. About one in the morning, Smokey found himself sitting at the station’s kitchen table, putting into words the emotions inside of him from that evening.

The following words are one man's prayer (a man who was more than a fireman) to his Lord and Savior. He was a husband, father, grandfather, and son who knew how precious and short life can be.

When I am called to duty, God whenever flames may rage,
Give me the strength to save some life whatever be its age.
Help me to embrace a little child before it's too late,
Or some older person from the horror of that fate.
Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout,
And quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.
I want to fill my calling and give the best in me,
To guard my neighbor and protect his property.
And if according to Your will I have to lose my life,
Please bless with Your protecting hand my children and my wife.

God wants people to experience His loving reign on earth through His church. That is why the Kingdom of God is the goal of our church's missions. As God's Church, we are the shadow, sign, instrument, and appetizer to God's Kingdom. God's Kingdom has to be actualized in the places where we are called.

If you are taking care of your elderly mother or father, you are to reveal God's Kingdom there. If you are taking care of your children or grandchildren, that is where you are to be God's Kingdom agent. If you are working, the people in your workplace have to taste God's Kingdom because you are there. How do you pray your Kingdom Prayer? How can you put your Kingdom prayer into action?