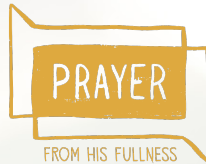


Week Beginning: 18th August 2019

Worship Series: #1 in series



living sharing growing



Theme Verse

Our Father...your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10

Remember This Week

Some pray to see the will of God
Some pray to be the will of God.
Which will you pray today?



**I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.
Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.
All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you.
They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all people
may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.
The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.**

Psalms 145:1-2; 10-13

Heavenly Father, your kingdom comes without our praying for it, but we ask today that you would come and rule over our lives as King. Help us to surrender our own agendas for your Kingdom agenda and give us your Holy Spirit that we may bring Christ's presence, love, forgiveness, hope and joy to others. We ask this in his name, Amen.

1. *Share your highs and lows since you last met with one another.*
2. *Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time? Or share the breath prayer that you came up with from last week's study.*
3. *What was on your agenda in the last week and how much of it was completed?*
4. *In last week's sermon (you can view it or listen to it on the App), two approaches to life were outlined...Life as a balancing act...or life as a juggling act. Which do you have a tendency toward and how is that working in your life at this current tie?*

It rolls off the tongue so easily: "Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven." It's something we want as disciples of Jesus. To desire the will of God, to applaud the will of God, to do the will of God is not difficult until it is at odds with our own will or agenda for our lives. That's when truly praying this prayer becomes a struggle for like Adam and Eve we want to pray: "Not as you will, but as I will." Today in the second week of our series, we explore 'The Father's Kingdom' as Jesus shows us that for God's agenda and priority to come first, we need to surrender our own agenda. In doing so, however, we discover that we are the answer to God's prayer for this city, this nation and the world. That brings a joy that is felt in heaven and on earth.

Read Mark 1:14-15

5. *It's such a short passage...but packed full of significance. What confronts/challenges/ comforts you in these two short verses?*
6. *What do we learn about God's kingdom in these verses?*
7. *How does the kingdom come in our world?*
8. *How is praying "Your Kingdom come" a dangerous prayer? A missional prayer?*





The concept of the Kingdom of God/Kingdom of Heaven (they can be used interchangeably) was central to Jesus' ministry. Jesus calls his hearers to turn around, to shift the direction of their lives, to look, listen, and give their full attention to the Kingdom which is arriving. What is the Kingdom? Luther writes that the Kingdom is simply:

that God sent his Son, Christ our Lord, into the world to rescue us and make us free from the devil's power and to lead us to himself and rule over us as a king of justice, life, and eternal joy, opposing sin, death, and a bad conscience. What's more, he also gave us his Holy Spirit to guide us to this kingdom by means of his holy Word, and to let his light shine on us and make us strong in faith by his power. (Luther's Large Catechism, 143)

9. *What would change in your life if you believed and lived like Jesus is your king, that he is in charge of you and had authority over you? How would that change the agenda you set or the priorities that dominate your life?*
10. *Jesus tells us that the kingdom coming near is good news. In what way is it good news now in the present, and good news for the future?*

The prayer 'Your Kingdom come...' is a prayer of submission to God as our King both now and for the future. It's a prayer that goes to the heart of God's intentions and actions in his world. It grounds us in God's eternal purposes for his creation - that just as Jesus was called to spread the 'Good News' of this Kingdom, so we are called to pray for it, proclaim it and participate in it!!

11. Read the following passages that give us an insight into the nature of God's eternal Kingdom past, present and future. Which passage speaks most to you at this time of your life and does it have a past, present or future dimension to it?

Hebrews 12:22-24,28; Romans 14:17-18; Romans 15:13; Luke 11:14-23;
Hebrews 1:8-9.

The next portion of the Lord's Prayer '... your will be done on earth ...' acknowledges that God's Kingdom on earth is worked out in and through people. It is expressing a desire to come into line with God's purposes, his will and agenda.

12. *How do we live and serve God's will under his rule?*
13. *What do 1 Timothy 2:4 and 2 Peter 3:8-9 tell us that God's will is?*

These petitions in the Lord's prayer are incredibly challenging to pray. It's surrendering our own agendas. It's giving up juggling or trying to balance life and inviting God to come in and invade our life with his agenda and purpose. God is here and on the move and he will continue to show up where we least expect him. The promise of the Gospel is not that hardship will be taken away, but that God is with us in the hardship. It is not that evil will be defeated before our eyes, but rather that, in words that John proclaims in the opening chapter of his Gospel, that "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." The Gospel is not a word of obvious victory but rather of sustaining and courageous hope. For God is here and he wants us to trust that he is in control. Praying this petition reminds us that he is. Luther writes:

You can see we are not asking for something trivial, or for some temporary good thing on earth. We are asking for a priceless treasure that lasts for ever. We are asking for everything that God himself can give. It would be much too great for any person to dare even to want it, if God himself hadn't told us to ask for it. ...and God desires nothing more earnestly of us than that we ask much and great things from Him." Martin Luther, Large Catechism: Lord's prayer, 144

14. *How can you best extend God's kingdom in your life and of those around you?*
15. *What would it take for you to throw your life agenda up into the air and pray: Lord only let fall into my hands what you want for my life? What would make that difficult for you? What things do you need to relinquish control over to pray that prayer every day?*

- * Praise God for his eternal rule and reign in our lives and for being in control of this world even when it doesn't look like it. Thank Jesus for showing us how to pray and live the Father's will, even when our will wants another way. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's kingdom in and through our lives.
- * Pray: Lord prepare our hearts for what you have for us next and give us a heart of faith to go where you call us to go, that your Kingdom may come and your will be done.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

Name, may God's kingdom come to you and through you this day. Amen.

