

The Lord's Prayer for Today Week 3- Your Kingdom Come

Mike McCrary

Discussion:

How have you prayed Father in Heaven and Hallowed be Your Name the last 2 weeks? Have you seen your prayers increase lately? Why or why not?

Recap

Tonight we are looking at a phrase that gives us the reference point that every one of us needs for our identity. It's the concept that I believe every person needs because I believe we all need dignity that fills us and that is much bigger than us.

We find this in the concept of KINGDOM. For the third phrase of the Lord's Prayer is simple, Your Kingdom Come (say it aloud).

Our Father in Heaven
Hallowed be Your Name
Your Kingdom Come

A sense of kingdom is something that it's not easy for us to get a handle on. We of course live in a republic where the power belongs to the people and not a nation that is ruled by a monarchy say like England. There was a big stink made over how the President's wife, Michelle, greeted the Queen. Why? Because there is a certain way we should act and function with royalty. There is a way in those regal settings that one must act in the presence of royalty.

When we come to these three amazing words, Your Kingdom Come, there is this sense of the majestic or regal and dignity that we are all invited to. This isn't a country we are invited to this is a Kingdom.

What was Jesus doing when he told us to pray prayers that involved the kingdom to come? What really was in his mind?

There were probably at least two things that were in his mind.

First, there was a kingdom that was yet to come.

He was yearning for something that neither you or I have come to realize in our lives yet. In Revelation (the last book of the bible) there are some verses that tell us how human history is going to be wrapped up. They talk about Jesus on the day when he comes again.

They begin in Revelation 11:15 - *"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever."*

That's what a kingdom is. It's a place that has a king whose asserting his influence of rule. Wherever a king rules that is his kingdom. He talks about the kingdoms of this world someday will become the kingdoms of Lord and He will rule them. In other words, He will rule over all nations.

Discussion:

What is your view of God's kingdom? What does that look like?

Revelation 19 talks about an event that we refer to as the second coming of Christ where Jesus comes again. He's not coming again in a virgin's womb but on a great white horse. He's not coming this time as the sacrifice and the lamb slain for sin he's coming as the victorious conquering warrior. Rev. 19:16 tells us that he's not coming in pampers but he's coming within the regal robes that have the following words written on them, "*King of Kings and Lord of Lords.*"

In others words, there will come a day when no King (good or evil) will be able to say they rule and are in charge because everyone will have to bow before that conquering King one day.

And so in Revelation 22, the second to last verse in the Bible, we find the last recorded words of Jesus, Rev. 22:20 *He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

When Jesus taught us, "Your Kingdom Come," he had in mind that phrase "Yes I am coming." He is that King who is coming again. And our response in the Scripture is "Amen, come, Lord Jesus."

When Jesus taught us to pray, "your Kingdom Come" was at the heart of his intention in prayer.

This is everything we ultimately want. This is the whole ball of wax. This is everything we want. Lord above all, your kingdom come.

Sometimes we see on bumper stickers, "be patient God isn't finished with me." Newsflash, God's not finished in a big way and it is a lot bigger than just me and you. He's coming someday to mop up the evil of this world and put it away forever and declare the triumph of the cross and enforce it in his rule.

Jesus said, I am coming soon and we say amen, come, Lord Jesus. If you lose this you lose the umppff in your prayer because you end up just praying for whatever you want.

Secondly, he probably had in mind the kingdom that is now at hand. There is a kingdom that Jesus is yearning for but there is an aspect of the kingdom of God that is already breaking through.

Mark 1:15 – (The ministry of Jesus had just begun at 30 years old) Mark 1:15 “*The time has come,*” he said. “*The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!*”

The kingdom of God, in this case, has come near to the hearers. And because it has come near there are some action points - repent and believe. I think Jesus is ultimately pointing to himself here and when you encounter Him you do so by repenting and believing the Gospel.

What do hearts look like when God’s rule touches them? Romans 14:17 –*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit*

Paul says, it’s not the trivial, it is righteousness: doing what is right according to God’s standards; peace: not an emotion but a renewed relationship with God; and joy in the Spirit.

What things make up the kingdom? 1 Corinthians 4:20 –*“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.”* If you are a kingdom person there isn’t just rhetoric or talk there is ability, power. Paul is saying to the Corinthian’s that a lot of you are full of TALK. But when I come next I want to see who has more than talk. I want to see who has that life changing power.

We now live in this tension between Satan and his authority in this time and the Kingdom of God moving ahead towards this point when Jesus will return for good. We call this the already but not yet. God’s kingdom has already begun but not yet culminated by the return of Christ.

IT’S MESSY. This is messy because sometimes you pray and the answer is immediate and other times you pray and fast and no answer. Why is that? Well there are probably lots of answers to that but the point is that we are live in a messy time. Sometimes we do what is right and we hurt for it. Sometimes the Kingdom breaks in and we see miracles.

The Lord’s Prayer is like God’s passport to us. We won’t need to pray this prayer once we are with Jesus. This is our passport for this life while we are traveling through it. Lord, Your Kingdom Come, your Kingdom resources, Your Kingdom deliverance, your Kingdom bread, Your Kingdom hope. That’s the good news.

What difference does a kingdom life make in our lives?

1. It’s a call to worship.

- a. Someone said if you worship the problem you’ll come out a worrier but if you worship the King you come out a worshiper.
- b. When we worry and fear it’s like we come into the throne room of our problems, we kneel before our problems, and we say “problem have dominion over me. Affect me, affect my emotions, O problem you just seem like the most important thing in the world right now. Problem, I cant

stop thinking about you. You are great problem and greatly to be worried about. O great problem, how will we get out of this? O great confusing one, how can I worry about you more.

- c. That's how you fear. But the way you worship is by bowing to the King and saying King, I'm in your Kingdom. I can bring my problems but I don't bow to them. I bow to you. Lord, would you rule over my problems.
 - d. There is something about praise that centralizes God's rule over the middle of whatever we go through.
2. **His Kingdom allows us His authority.** In Israel I ran by the American Embassy in the mornings. If I went in there we would have been technically in the US. That's what it is like.
- a. We live in a foreign world and on foreign soil. We have the authority of the Kingdom working in and through us.
 - b. It's a missional kingdom. We are in the world but not of the world. We are his representatives on this earth.
 - c. The issue isn't should I ask the Lord to use me. No, I believe it is God who is saying please ask me. I want to put my Kingdom resources through you in my name. The authority comes from the King. Not from us.
3. **We protect our King**
- a. Chess Image- In Chess, the most important piece is the king. From Yasser Sierawan's (International Grandmaster) Winning Chess Tactics: "Many tactics are made possible by a weakened or open King. You can ignore an attack on a Knight or Bishop; you can toss your Rooks to the winds; you can even sacrifice your Queen. But your King is indispensable. Lose it and the game is over."
 - b. You must protect the king at all costs because if you lose it you lose everything. There isn't another piece on the board that matters if the king is lost.
 - c. The same is true for our lives. If we compromise the position of Jesus in our lives, there is not a piece on the board of our lives that matter anymore. If we lose the King we can lose it all.

Activity:

Split up in groups and discuss our response to His kingdom through worship. What does that look like for you?

What "kingdom resources" do you feel God has given you to use here on earth? How can they be used?

How can we, as a group, "protect" the kingdom?