

Last week we discussed **Matthew 6:10** – “Your kingdom come...”

Arnold says in regard to prayer; “Our personal prayers remain selfish unless they are placed in the larger context of God’s rulership being established on earth. This is the only way in which we may bring our personal needs before God; they must be placed in the setting of his great and all-inclusive power.” What does this mean to you? Are you implementing this into your prayer life?

Matthew 6:10 – “Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”



Meister Eckhart (ca. 1260-1327) was a German mystic. Eckhart von Hochheim OP, commonly known as Meister Eckhart, Master Eckhart or Eckethart, claimed original name Johannes Eckhart, was a German Catholic priest, theologian, philosopher and mystic. He was born near Gotha in the Landgraviate of Thuringia in the Holy Roman Empire. In later life, he was accused of heresy and brought up before the local Franciscan-led Inquisition, and tried as a heretic by **Pope John XXII** with the bull *In Agro Dominico* of March 27, 1329. In the trial, excerpts of his *Book of Divine Consolation* were used against Eckhart. He seems to have died before his verdict was received.

Eckhart says: “Nothing makes a true man but the giving up of his will. The only perfect and true will comes from entering into God’s will and being without self-will.” What is Eckhart saying here about being a “true man”? How does this differ from the world view? “For the whole perfection of man’s will means being in harmony with the divine will by willing what God wills, and the way he wills it.” Do you feel like you are in God’s will in your life? If so, how do you know? If not, how can you be?

Mark 3:34-35 – “Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.” What is Jesus saying here about those who do God’s will? Why is this?

Eckhart continues: “Just people hunger and thirst so very much for the will of God, and it pleases them so much, that they wish for nothing else and desire nothing different from what God decrees for them.” Many times in life we are like kids in the back seat asking “are we there yet?” for God’s will. Does doing God’s will please you in your life or do you find you are still searching for it? “But for those who desire something different from God’s will get what they deserve: they are always in misery and trouble; people do them a great deal of violence and injury, and they suffer in every way.” Do you know people like this? What was **Eckhart’s** world?

Pope John XXII (reigned 1316–1334) established his court firmly in Avignon, continuing the 70-year period often called the “Babylonian Captivity” of the papacy, where the popes were heavily influenced by the French crown. A significant theological and political crisis occurred over the concept of “apostolic poverty.” **Pope John XXII** condemned the view that Christ and the Apostles owned no property, leading to a split with the “Spiritual” Franciscans. How could this effect **Eckhart** and his beliefs?

“When our will becomes God’s will, that is certainly good; but how much better it would be if God’s will were to become our will.”

What does this mean; that God’s will becomes our will? How is this possible?

“If you cannot have it, then do have a longing for it! And if you cannot have the longing, then at least long to have the longing.”



Robert McAfee Brown (1920-2001) was a Presbyterian minister, theology professor, and activist. **Brown** was the author of 29 books, the most popular being; “Liberation Theology: An Introductory Guide”, “Gustavo Gutiérrez: An Introduction to Liberation Theology”, “Unexpected News: Reading the Bible With Third World Eyes”, “The Bible Speaks to You”, and “Spirituality and Liberation: Overcoming the Great Fallacy”.

Brown says: “..some people pray without admitting it,…”Our Father who art in heaven…stay there!” …which is where we like our Gods to be – safely removed from our dwelling place and therefore no threat to us.”

Why would some people think God in their life would be a threat to them and their life?



Francois Fenelon (1651-1715) was a French Roman Catholic archbishop, theologian, and poet. Today, he is remembered mostly as the author of “The Adventures of Telemachus”, first published in 1699. He was a member of the Sulpician Fathers.

Fenelon says: “Christian perfection is not that rigorous tedious, cramping thing that many imagine. It demands only an entire surrender of everything to God from the depths of the soul, and the moment this takes place, whatever is done for him becomes easy.” What is **Fenelon** telling us about the Christian life?

“They who are God’s without reserve, are in every state content;” What does this mean to you?

“...for they will only what he wills, and desire to do for him whatever he desires them to do; they strip themselves of everything, and in this nakedness find all things restored a hundredfold.” What is Fenelon saying here about those who do God’s will?

“They are sacrificed, it is true, but it is to that which they love best; they suffer, but they will to endure all that they do receive, and prefer that anguish to all the false joys of the world; their bodies are subject to excruciating pain; their imaginations are troubled; their minds become languid and weak, but the will is firm and peacefully quiet in the interior of the soul, and responds a joyful Amen! To every stroke from the hand that would perfect the sacrifice.” What is the mindset of Christians who suffer in this world?

“In this state of mind, all things are proper for us; our amusements, even, are acceptable in his sight.”

If we have given our lives to God and seek his will, what is Fenelon saying about how God thinks of us? Why would God think this?



Chiara Lubich (1920-2008) was an Italian teacher and Catholic author who founded the Focolare Movement which aims to bring unity among people and promote universal family.

“Very often we Christians are blind people who have abdicated our supernatural dignity, for we repeat, maybe every day, in the “Our Father”: “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” But we neither understand what we say, nor do we do what we implore.” What is **Lubich** saying about the lives of many Christians?

“God sees and knows the course we must follow every instant of our lives. God must move our life and draw it into a divine adventure, which is unknown to us; one in which, at the same time spectators and actors of the marvelous plan of love, we give moment by moment the contribution of our free will.” We have free will to do God’s will.