

THY KINGDOM COME

Man complicates.....God simplifies. Jesus' teachings were comprehensive but spoken with clarity and simplicity. Such is the case with the Lord's Prayer.

The Greatest Person - Our Father
The Greatest Perspective - Heaven
The Greatest Protocol / Praise - Hallowed be your Name
The Greatest Priority - Thy Kingdom Come

If you listen to a Prime Minister or President of a country, you will likely hear a lot of talk about their administration and rule. It was also true of Jesus. The kingdom of God was the focus of his teaching and practical ministry.

It should be our main priority when we pray since Jesus told us to **'seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.'**

When we pray..... THY KINGDOM COME, we are praying that Jesus' will would be done on earth just as it is done in heaven. There are two aspects to this: the present and the future. Thirty years ago I asked a Baptist pastor if he talked much about the kingdom. He said no, because that was only in the future. This is a common view which was spread through the Scofield Bible study notes, which even dismissed the importance of the Sermon on the Mount. This view sees the kingdom teaching as only relevant to when Jesus returns to earth to set up his earthly kingdom and is more pertinent to the Jews only.

Now of course we should desire that Jesus come back to earth to make things totally right again. When we pray for his kingdom to come, we can be expressing our love and desire for him to return to earth visibly as he promised. He will be recognized by the whole world as the supreme king and ruler in all of his majestic glory. However, we can also pray that his kingdom would come NOW in our lives and the various areas of our society. What does that mean?

'The kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.' - Romans 14:17

The kingdom of God does not start in the external realm but in the heart. The kingdom is where Jesus is allowed to rule. His righteousness, the right way of living, is the optimal one. The Sermon on the Mount is one example of this. When we live his way it is followed by peace and joy. It all begins with the presence of the Holy Spirit. The character of Jesus is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.....love, joy, peace.....patience, kindness, goodness.....faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

What is fruit? It is the visible harvest or expression of the inherent energy of the source or seed from which it comes. Recently I was discussing the fruit of the Spirit with a friend. It reminded me of a time in Belgium in 1984 when I was working at the largest Roman Catholic university in Europe as co-leader of an evangelism team. It was a difficult year due to many tensions on our team. I found myself asking God many mornings - **'God, what fruit of the Spirit do you want me to demonstrate today?'** It was amazing how many times it was just the fruit that was needed. Below is an example from my journal of that year.

May 28, 1984 **Morning quiet time**

"Lord, what fruit should I display today? PEACE....peace like a river, John 16:33. Since nothing is too hard for the Lord....Jeremiah 32:27, why should I worry about anything? What pleases God more than if I allow him to control my life?

'If I call on God, he will answer me! And tell me great and unsearchable things I do not know.' - Jeremiah 33:3. In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:2-3, 1 Corinthians 1:30, 2:7.

Evening journal:

Had a beautiful day with Jesus! Throughout the day the Lord gave me his wonderful peace. Devotions were good as Eugene led and we had a nice time of sharing of what we had learned this year. God has showed me the importance of loving him each day and learning to love people. Why not try asking the Lord each day for the next week what fruit he would like to display through you? **THY WILL BE DONE**

Jesus lived a perfect life in an imperfect world. His example inspires to live with the same attitude that he had towards the heavenly Father..... **THY WILL BE DONE**. When God's kingdom will is done in our lives, we will display the fruit of the Spirit and other powerful manifestations of his Spirit. Jesus told us that 'the kingdom of God does not come visibly but it is in us or among us' - Luke 17:20-21. The world that we see around us is influenced by forces in the unseen realm around us. The creation of the universe began in the thoughts of God and was released through his words.

'By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.' - Hebrews 11:3 NIV
Jesus said to his disciples, 'when you pray, SAY' - Luke 11:2. He then recited what we know as the Lord's Prayer. Although God can hear our silent heart prayers, there is a power that is released when we speak audible words. Words are invisible to us but they can have great influence on the visible world around us. Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

When we pray to God..... 'your kingdom come, your will be done', we are making a bold declaration that advances God's will on earth. God told Joshua to go in and take possession of the promised land. He was to claim every place where he set his feet. We are to do the same in our world. **We are to reign in this life** - Romans 5:17. The occupation begins in us first of all. God desires to fill our whole being - spirit, soul and body. God changes people inside out.

Crooked people.....straighten up.
Feuding people.....make up.
Dishonest people.....fess up.
Stubborn people.....loosen up.
All gossips..... shut up.
Sleepy Christians.....wake up.
Legalistic Christians.....grace up.
Silent Christians.....speak up

Hardhearted people.. .soften up.
Bitter people.....sweeten up.
Discouraged people.....brighten up
Lame people.....get up.
Lukewarm Christians.....heat up.
Carnal Christians.....grow up.
Soldiers of Christ.....stand up.
All Christians.....pray up!

AS IT IS IN HEAVEN God will have to shake up some things on this earth. This world has an atmosphere of darkness, violence, fear, perversion, pain and death. Jesus prophesied that just before his second coming, the world would be like the days of Noah. We read about Noah's time in the first book of the Bible.

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight
and was full of violence. - Genesis 6:11

Jesus also said that men's hearts would fail them for fear of what was coming upon this world - Luke 21:26. God tells us in the latter days that everything will be shaken but the kingdom of God cannot be shaken. The world systems are being shaken. - Hebrews 12:27-29.

There will be another shaking too, a positive one in and through the church of Jesus Christ.

In the early church we see how the believers shook the powerful Roman empire. We even see how one of their prayer meetings was accompanied with a great shaking in the building. - Acts 4:3. Jesus shook things up wherever he went.

'When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was **stirred.....**' - Matthew 21:10

Stirred = to rock, vibrate, to agitate (figuratively), to throw into a tremor of fear or concern - Strong's Concordance

Stirred = Seio (Greek) to shake, usually violent concussion - Vines Dictionary

Two times I have preached a message based on the Matthew 21:10 verse. The first time was in London in October of 1989 where I called it **Jesusquake**. I mentioned the San Andreas fault in California. Later that week there was a massive earthquake in San Francisco which even caused the cancellation of the baseball World Series. The second time I preached the message in India in February 2011 where it was titled: **The Man Who Shook the World**. Within the same week there was a massive earthquake tsunami in Japan.

Jesus rocked the world that he entered. He drove out demons, darkness, disease, despair, despicable religious hucksters, etc. Now it is our turn to do the same because we are his ambassadors. We must remember that although seeing heaven come to earth may agitate and rock the world of evil, it is actually bringing 'good vibrations' to a world in need of heaven's blessings.

Heaven is a more inviting place - full of light, peace, purity, love, comfort and life. When we pray 'thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven' we are asking that God would make our life, families, towns, schools, churches, governments etc. reflect those great qualities. As I mentioned in a previous writing, the phrase '**thy kingdom come**' is a declaration we are making. We are not just praying to heaven, we are praying from heaven for we are seated with Christ - Ephesians 2:6

In the Greek language....the phrases in the Lord's Prayer 'thy kingdom come, thy will be done' are in the imperative tense and can be prayed with great emphasis like this:

COME thy kingdom, BE DONE thy will on earth as it is in heaven.

When Jesus began his public ministry, **heaven was opened.** Wherever he went, heaven's atmosphere was evident. Several years ago while I was doing outreach to Indian families in London, we tried inviting them to our house group. However, we found it difficult to get them to come to us. While on a personal retreat the Lord gave me an idea about starting a 'traveling house group'. Instead of inviting the people to come to our house, we would ask if we could come to their house. I remember the first time we went to an Indian home and sang many songs and shared some of God's Word. The mother shared with us at the end that it was like heaven had come to their home!

The kingdom of God comes wherever Jesus is allowed to rule and reign. When we pray for the kingdom to come, we help bring God's will to earth.....just as it is in heaven!

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