

Series: Lord, Teach Us to Pray!
Title: On Earth as It Is in Heaven!
Main Text: Matthew 6:10
Date: April 18th, 2021

Introduction: As we continue this study on the Lord's prayer, let stand and pray this together.

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Verse 10 in Three Parts

1. Part one... God's **Kingdom**: This refers to the reign of God over His creation.
 - a. **The tension among kingdoms**: Sin brought about a competing kingdom... the kingdom of darkness. This kingdom does not just refer to the temporary rule of the evil one over a fallen creation, but it refers to all its effects as well. Our temptation and leaning is to build our own kingdom, meaning that we build our life around our own desires and authority. We set ourselves up as king and live the way we want, even if it is a moral path. Moral people are just as guilty of building their own kingdom as immoral people. At the heart of it, we want our own way, and we resist any authority over our own lives, even if that authority is God. We would rather live as kings than live as servants. This is why this prayer is so important for us.
 - b. **Reigning through a nation**: The primary manifestation of His rule in the Old Testament through the nation of Israel.
 - i. He was their king, but they rejected Him as their king.
 - ii. Israel was to be God's holy people, displaying to the rest of the world the glory of God.
 - c. **Reigning through His Church**: The way God manifests His rule under the New Covenant is through the Church, of which Jesus is Lord, ruler, head, or king. The Kingdom of God is not just a future hope, but a present reality as well.

20 Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed, 21 nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."
-Luke 17:20-21

19 But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. 20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.

-1 Cor. 4:19-20

- i. Christians have been called out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light.
- ii. Christians best express the rule and reign of Christ by living like people who belong to the Kingdom of light.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

-Matthew 5:16

- d. **The future earthy reign of Christ:** The Kingdom of God is also referred to as this future hope of Christ reigning on earth for 1000 years.
 - i. Satan is bound or imprisoned.
 - ii. Believers resurrected to reign with Christ

6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

-Rev. 20:6

Bottom Line: Praying for God's Kingdom to come is a prayer for us to live out God's values and priorities (righteousness) while on earth.

- 2. Part 2... **God's Will:** It is an expression of God's desires for His people.
 - a. God's has a stated will, and in this way it is not a mystery.
 - i. We see a great example of this just in the sermon on the mount.
 - 1. God's will is for you to be:
 - a. Humble and Meek
 - b. Hungry for righteousness
 - c. Merciful
 - d. Peacemakers
 - e. Salt and light in this world
 - f. Not given to anger or lust
 - g. Committed to the covenant of marriage and a person of your word.
 - h. Not a revenge seeker but actually love your enemies
 - i. Not self-seeking in your acts of worship... giving, praying, fasting.
 - j. Treasuring the eternal over the temporary, particularly with your treasure.
 - k. Not to worry
 - l. Seek first God's kingdom and righteousness.
 - m. Not to hypocritically judge another
 - n. Do unto others as you wish they would do unto you.

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;

18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

-1 Thess. 5:18

2. The mysterious will of God. This refers to God's plan for our lives that He has yet to reveal. He reveals this through opening doors and closing doors. Every open door is a part of God's will and so is every closed door. In this sense, we hold our future open to when and how God might direct us. This is why we say things like, "Lord willing, I will come see you next week." We just can't know for certain that anything will happen.

Bottom Line: Praying for God's will to happen is a prayer for us to be submissive to what we know God desires.

3. Part 3... On Earth as it Is in Heaven: This phrase expresses a longing for the values, desires, and worship in heaven to manifest itself in God's creation on earth.
 - a. It is a phrase that actually is connected to the first three petitions in the Lord's Prayer
 - Hallowed be your name on earth as it is in heaven.
 - Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.
 - Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Take-Aways

1. This prayer **reminds** us that we are citizens of the Kingdom of God and **orients** us as to how we ought to live. Seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.
 - a. In doing so, we become the light of the world.
 - b. In doing so, we also should expect (not invite) conflict...

18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

-John 15:18-19

2. This prayer **reminds** us that there is a gap between how kingdom values are expressed on earth and how they are expressed in heaven. The longing of our heart is that this gap would narrow in its expression, but it also recognizes that it starts with God's people. You may even be thinking that you already express these kingdom values in your life. Let's have a look:
 - Are you a peacemaker?
 - Do you struggle with anger?
 - Do you lust after wealth or objectify other human beings?
 - Are you consumed with worry about the future?

- Do you keep your covenants?
- Do you love your enemy?
- Are you merciful and forgiving?
- Are you grace-filled and thankful in all circumstances?
- Do you worship God without any self-seeking motives?
- Are you kind?

- a. Be aware of the strong pull on your heart to make you the center of the kingdom you are pursuing.

“If we pray this prayer, and if we pray it honestly, we will recognize that we may have grown far too comfortable with the way things are. We have technology to make our lives more convenient, entertainment to bring pleasure, and science and medicine to heal so many of our woes. We quite like this kingdom, and frankly we like it because we are at the very center.”

-Pastor Andrew Bolkcom

- b. To pray for God’s kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven gives us opportunity to:
- i. Repent of our self-seeking ways
 - ii. Remind ourselves of our allegiance to God as citizens of heaven
 - iii. Refocus our eyes on Jesus and His kingdom

Challenge: See card in bulletin.

Conclusion:

Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus teaches the disciples to pray in this way?
2. In what ways do you find yourself pursuing your own kingdom?
3. How should praying that God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven transform your own life?
4. What do you think the biggest threat is in your life to genuinely praying these two petitions?
5. What was your biggest take-a-way from the message this morning?