

Weaving the Word

Your Kingdom Come

Part 36 – June 21, 2015

Welcome to where we're learning to discern the difference between religion and Good News!

What is the kingdom of God? And, how does it come?



The Lord himself gave us a way to pray. **The Lord's Prayer is a pattern meant to be personalized.**

Kind of like a Hallmark card.

We've covered, "Our Father": **whenever we go before Papa-God, we should begin by greeting Him intimately and relationally.**

And, because He rules "in heaven", **we should immediately recognize His authority.**



We got'a keep His intimacy and authority in balance. One of only 15 times God is referred to as "Father" in the First Testament, God *himself* challenges us to strike this balance:

"If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, [**'adown (Strong's H113): lord; king**] where is the respect due me?" says the Lord Almighty. – Malachi 1:6b NIV

So, "Hallowed be Your name"! Honored. Respected. Holy. Revered.

We personalize this portion with a few words of worship.



Even though Jesus said, "This, then, is how you should pray," (Mat 6:9) **too often we're too anxious to tell Him what we want.**

Do you focus more on what you want to get or what God wants to give? Because, before we get to the *gets*, Jesus says to pause and **greet Him** and **bow to Him** and **appreciate Him.**

"And now let's get to the gets!" Not so fast, partner.

Remember Jesus saying that whole, "**Seek ye first the kingdom of God ...**" thing? (Mat 6:33)

Well, that's the first get you get to get: "Your Kingdom Come".

In our prayers, as in our lives, His kingdom must come ... *first!*



As we saw last week, the night before the cross, Jesus said: **“Anyone who has seen *me* has seen the *Father*,”** (John 14:9)

And, He prayed, **“[Father] I have made *your name* known to them”**. (John 17:26)

I believe that **Jesus was revealing, *not reinventing*, God’s Word**, so I went seeking to see if His “Our Father” was based on any of those 15 Old Testament references.



And, I was thrilled to find, as you saw, that **Isaiah 63:15-16** has *every element* of His *entire opening*: ***our Father*** who is ***in heaven***, and ***hallowed***; and, Isaiah even proclaims God’s name, as ***Redeemer of old!***

You see, the most personal portrait of our Father is His Son, our Redeemer.

Papa-God has many names, but only one that our Redeemer’s Prayer Guide points us to: the one revealed and fulfilled on the cross (when He wore the crown of thorns as our King of the curse).



My prayers must reflect the fact that I’m a loyal subject and He’s the royal King.

If you play *Game of Thrones* with God, what do you suppose are your odds of success?

Prayer wasn’t intended as a means of letting God in on *my* plans, but of seeking *His* perfect plan, *for me*, in *His* kingdom.



So, what *is* His *kingdom*? How does it *come*?

Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, **“The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.”** – Luke 17:20-21 NIV

God’s kingdom extends over the hearts of those who enthrone Him as King and submit to His rule. **His kingdom is the realm of His reign.**

That’s why Jesus said, **“The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”** (Mark 1:15)

We live in His kingdom when He reigns in our heart.



US Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan

[We may still be on earth] But our citizenship is in heaven.
- Philippians 3:20a NIV

If you're born in a US embassy on foreign soil, you're a citizen of the United States of America before you ever set foot in it. And, if you're *reborn* in the embassy of Christ, you're a united citizen of God's eternal Kingdom as you dwell down here.

Plus, you're automatically made an *ambassador!*

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who **reconciled us to himself through Christ** [To be reconciled means to reestablish a relationship: a divorced couple remarrying, or feuding friends reuniting] and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**: that God was **reconciling** the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of **reconciliation**. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be **reconciled** to God. - 2 Cor. 5:17-20 NIV

Any guesses on the key word in this passage?

Once we've been reconciled with God (through Jesus) we're given the "ministry of reconciliation" and the "message of reconciliation".

Know why? **He's expanding His kingdom heart by heart.** So, to pray for His kingdom to come is to pray for His Good News to advance and spread to those who are outside His kingdom.

And, the way we personalize the "kingdom come" portion of the Lord's Prayer Guide is by lifting up any family or friends or classmates or coworkers who could use some "Good News".



But, WARNING: **praying for His Kingdom to *come* must be translated into action.**

To pray, "Thy kingdom come" without naming names or requesting wisdom, direction, and opportunity, is like looking at an un-mown lawn and saying, "Thy work be DONE!"

We don't command it, we commit to it. "Let me help you out a little, Lord: ***THY KINGDOM COME!*** There; that oughta do it."

We must personalize this portion of our prayer with our plans for participating in the advancing and expanding of His kingdom.

When you pray in private, don't just say, "Thy lawn be mowed" or "Thy work be done" or "Thy kingdom come" ... *that'd be silly.*



We're Ambassadors of light in an outpost of darkness.

No longer sentenced, but Posted. Entrusted. Appointed. Assigned. **We now straddle two realms: temporal *and* eternal. Earth *and* heaven. Man *and* God.**

God's kingdom is within, so don't expect it to be around.

Divorce, death, identity theft ... *that's how it works down here.*

So, what kind of Kingdom-come Ambassador are you? Are you the **anonymous** kind? Hiding in the embassy? Uncomfortable around a culture that doesn't care about our beliefs and values?

The kingdom comes not by fearfulness and silence.

Are you the **obnoxious** kind? Barging in uninvited on the world? Insensitive, intimidating, and inconsiderate to this culture?

The kingdom comes not by pushiness and noise.

Please, tell me you're the **kindness** kind: quietly, joyfully, respectfully coexisting, without betraying our Father's kingdom; and relating to this world while representing our Father.

Do you keep a kingdom-come perspective wherever you go? Ball game? Grocery store? Day job? Rush hour? Vacation? D.M.V.?

We have a reputation to uphold: *God's*. And, it's *not* that great.



Know the difference between reputation and character?

Character is what you are.

Reputation is what others *think* you are.

God's character is perfect, *hallowed even*; but, His *reputation*, *mmm, not so much*. Know why? He made *us* His Ambassadors!

What was He thinking?!

With Jesus, reputation always takes a backseat to compassion and kindness and gracious conversation, well-timed and well-seasoned.

Because, *that's how* the kingdom comes.