

LHCF Sermon Discussion Guide

Pastor Barry Tuggle



Connecting with God: The Lord's Prayer—Part 3 The Importance of Priorities

"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Matt. 6:10 (NIV)

1. "Your kingdom come"...three expressions

- The kingdom is _____ you
"The Kingdom of God does not come in such a way as to be seen. No one will say, look, here it is or there it is because the Kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17:20-21 (GNT)
- The kingdom is _____ you
"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." Acts 2:1-4 (NIV)
- The kingdom is _____ you
"According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words."
1 Thess. 4:15-18 (NIV)

2. "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

- Prioritize the concerns of the _____ in yours
"And why do you worry about clothes... So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ...But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matt.6:28-33 (NIV)
- Prioritize your responsibility as a _____
"...for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Pet. 2:9

Small Group Life:

Outline of the Lord's Prayer:

- Praise
- Priorities
- Provision
- Personal relationships
- Protection
- Praise

What the Kingdom of God is NOT:

- The Bible says this in John 18, Jesus said, *"My kingdom is not of this world."* So we're not trying to set up God's kingdom as a physical, political or institutional entity on the earth. Jesus said "My kingdom is not of this world." His plan is much bigger than the world.
- Bible says, *"The kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power."* Not a bunch of knowledge and information and words... This Kingdom has power to change lives, to heal the sick and to set free captives
- Romans 14 says *"The kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink [In other words, it's not material] but it's living right with God and a life of peace and Joy (received and given) in the Holy Spirit."*

What the Kingdom of God is:

- It's spiritual, not of this world. It's power because the believers life is living in the might of the HS. It's relational – living right with God... living a life of joy and peace, dispensing God's peace and joy to others. In other words it's all about connecting. Connecting to God and connecting to each other.

The kingdom is within you! *"The Kingdom of God does not come in such a way as to be seen. No one will say, look, here it is or there it is because the Kingdom of God is within you."* Luke 17:20-21 (GNT)

- If Jesus is king in your heart, then the kingdom of God is within you. Context – response to a Pharisee's question about when the Kingdom of God would come... looking for emancipation of Roman rule, a literal government that would overthrow Rome, a change of circumstances.
- Sometimes our prayer can be misguided in a similar way:
 - "Lord, when will my husband/wife change?"
 - "Lord, when will my employment situation change?" "Lord, when will that family member/friend stop being a jerk"
- Jesus response to the request for a change in "external world" is that He'll change your "internal" world, change your heart and use the circumstance to make you better, not bitter.
- Also confused about "how" to surrender... assumed it should be in me to do, didn't understand how to obtain the grace to surrender... i.e.
 - Talking to God about my fears with surrender
 - Just throwing will power at the thing that needed surrender
 - Not confessing and exploring my obsession with self destruction
- Remember this portion of prayer is largely about daily surrender... remaking Him King and Lord of your life.
- When we pray "your kingdom come" we're praying, Jesus you are king and ruler in my life today, have your way with me, change me, give me your view and heart on the painful things around me.

The kingdom is around you! 2nd idea of "Your kingdom come" the kingdom is around you.

- Remember the kingdom is found wherever Jesus is king.

- Most of the "kingdom within me" was imparted by the "kingdom around me" through examples from others I've learned to: *Pray; praise & worship; serve; lead; love & listen; be patient; be gracious; be content; be committed; etc...*
- In short, virtually all my and typically others growth as believers comes from the Holy Spirit's power through the example of God's work in others.
- Bible is clear that we need others to maintain our own vitality.

The kingdom is before you! *The next on the prophetic timeline is Jesus return to earth.*

- Too often we tend to neglect this in our prayer life.
- The Bible has much to say regarding His eminent return:
 - Matt 24:42 we are to be watchful
 - John 14:1-4 find comfort
 - 1 Cor. 1:7 Phil. 3:20 eagerly anticipate
 - 1 Thess. 2:19 hope and joy
 - 1 Thess 4:15-5:4 encouragement
 - 2 Tim 4:8 longing
- Remember, it is a reminder that we're just pilgrims here and that our real home is in heaven.

Mission or Ministry as appropriate – Who can you invite to your group or minister to that are having trouble trusting God... don't let them battle that alone, help them get in a small group and open up!

Discipleship – God gives us free will but also invites us to seek him with all our heart to please him, to enjoy his plan for our lives, and to fulfill his purposes. If we are to mature to be more Christ-like and find satisfaction, significance, and meaning in our lives, we should follow his example. What actions can you begin to take to help reveal God's plan for your life? Make a commitment to be more aware of listening for God speaking to you this week, particularly related to any possible hurts, habits and hang-ups in your own life.

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE ANSWER KEY:

The kingdom is within you; The kingdom is around you; The kingdom is before you; Prioritize the concerns of the King's heart in yours; Prioritize your responsibility as royal priest.