

## LHCF Sermon Discussion Guide

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### Connecting with God: The Lord's Prayer—Part 3 The Importance of Priorities—(cont)

“Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” Matt. 6:10

#### I. How heaven invades earth...through you!

##### 1. Align my heart with the King's heart.

*“God will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the kingdom of God your primary concern.” Matt. 6:33*

##### 2. Believe in the King's delegated authority and power.

*“Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” John 20:21 (NIV)*

##### 3. Consecrate my life to the King's purposes.

*“...Give yourselves to God... surrender your whole being to Him to be used for righteous purposes.” Rom. 6:13 (TEV)*

#### Small Group Life:

“Your kingdom come” This is where we tune in to what's on the King's heart.

Remember, prayer is not asking God to bless what we are doing but rather to for us to bless what He's doing...

- Bible says “delight yourself in the Lord, and He'll give you the desires of your heart.
- Delighting establishes Jesus as King over our heart and that heart He'll honor, because He is enthroned there!
- **“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”** means we pray for the characteristics of heaven to be revealed here on earth:
  - God's presence would be manifest

- Hearts would be full and not broken
- Peace and not strife
- Relationships characterized by generosity and not selfishness
- God's love/harmony vs. hatred/conflicts
- People would be whole and not sick
- Joy and abundance vs. sorrow/want
- In this part of the Lord's prayer we seek to bring these heavenly qualities into:
  - Our family
  - Our spiritual family
  - Our neighborhood
  - Our nation
  - Our world

#### How heaven invades earth...through you!

##### Align your heart with the King's heart.

- Remember, Jesus said... *“God will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the kingdom of God your primary concern.” Matt. 6:33*
- How do we make the kingdom our primary concern? By caring about what the King cares about...people!
- How do we know our heart is aligned with His? When others are our primary concern. *“This is how we know what love is. Jesus laid down his life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.” 1 John 3:16 (NLT)*
- 1 Cor. 12, Rom. 12, 1 Peter 4 all are references to gifting within God's family and how each of us are uniquely gifted to love people...all 3 passages are sandwiched in the context of love.
- This fall we'll spend 40 days in a new small group campaign called Forty Days of Love. More than anything else God wants you to learn to be like him. God is love. In order to be like God it means I've got to learn to love like God. I've got to learn to be unselfish like God. We are born naturally self-centered. We think about ourselves more than anybody else. Life and maturity is all about growing up and learning to be other person centered instead of self-centered.
- Jesus said *“by this shall all men know you are my disciples, that you love one another”*
- This “other person centered” love is a commitment to serve...

- Our marriage
- Our family
- Our spiritual family
- Our neighbor... our sphere of influence
- Here at LHCF we are big on the idea of honoring others:
  - Honor defined – “recognizing the value in others”
  - Attitude of humility – not thinking less of ourselves but thinking of ourselves less
  - Calling out the gold in others and not the dirt
- How can I align my heart with His? Be brilliant on relationship basics...
  - Student of God's word, His promises, His nature
  - Regularly spending time in adoration, worship and praise
  - Obedience in the matters He's dealing with you on
  - Taking risks to be generous with your time, talents, & treasure
  - Committed to regular fellowship with believers
  - Staying filled with God's Holy Spirit. How? By inviting Him

**Believe in the King's authority and power.** *Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."*  
*John 20:21 (NIV)*

- For God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven we need to be clear about these 3 terms: believe, authority, power.
  - BELIEVE:
    - Unlike our culture, believing in the Bible is much more than mental assent...rather it's a picture of trusting an idea with action, usually an idea that involves risk of failure.
    - Bible says that “He (Jesus) is able to do abundantly more than we can ask or imagine”.
    - On June 30, 1859, at 5 pm, Jean Francois Gravelot “The Great Blondin made his first journey across Niagra Falls.
    - Believing is a choice to get in the wheelbarrow.
  - AUTHORITY: – a legal term:
    - Defined – “the right to control, command or determine”
    - Bible is very clear that we as Christ's followers have been given authority to do the works of Jesus.
    - John 14:12 *“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”*
    - What was Jesus doing? Whatever the Father was doing...
    - John 5:19-20 *“I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”*

- Key point – our authority is limited to what the Father wants to do in any given situation...why it's so important to have our heart aligned with His.
- You may have doubts...God can work with doubt, only takes a tiny mustard seed of faith, doubt is overcome by getting in the wheelbarrow.
- Unbelief – another story, Jesus couldn't perform many miracles in his home town because of unbelief...the solution to unbelief is repentance.
- POWER:
  - Christian life is a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - Acts 1:8 *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*
  - Entire book of Acts...is Luke's chronicle of the powerful “acts” of miracles performed by His Spirit filled followers.
  - Three weeks ago, healing of a skin condition here at LHCF.

**Consecrate my life to the King's purposes.** *“...Give yourselves to God... surrender your whole being to Him to be used for righteous purposes.” Rom. 6:13 (TEV)*

- For Heaven to invade earth, God's family needs to be wholly surrendered to God's purposes for their life.
- Consecration = set apart. My first priority as I leave my home is to see myself as an ambassador for my Lord and King.
- An ambassador representing a nation speaks on behalf of the officials of his nation...his personal policy in that role is irrelevant he simply represents his kingdom/nation.
- Consecration means I've set myself apart to simply represent my King.
- 2 Cor 5:18-20 *“...God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us.”*

**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!