

“Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done” Sermon **5/5/19**

Note: Just before this we sang: **Build Your Kingdom Here by Rend Collective** (from Ireland).

Wow, what a powerful song. Growing up in the church, one of my favorite hymns was “**Onward Christian Soldiers**”. Let’s see a show of hands – how many of you are familiar with that classic hymn? It was a song that stirred this fighting for God spirit inside of me and reminded me of the powerful claim of Jesus that the “*Gates of Hell will not be able to overcome His message and His church.*” This song we just sang is kind of the modern day equivalent to Onward Christian Soldiers. Although while Onward Christian Soldiers talks about what we as Christians can do, “Build Your Kingdom Here” is asking God to do His work in and through us. It’s a call out to God to come and do your mighty work of building your kingdom in and through us. Let me just remind you of some of the powerful statements and asks within this song.

- *Come, set Your rule and reign in our hearts again*
- *Come, set our hearts ablaze with hope,*
- *We seek your kingdom first*
- *You’re our joy and prize*
- *We hunger and thirst and refuse to waste our lives*
- *We want to see the captive hearts released, the hurt, the sick, the poor at peace*
- *We lay down our lives for Heaven’s cause*
- *Heal our streets and land, Set your church on fire with this nation back*
- *Change the atmosphere, build your kingdom here.*

Is that a description of the deepest desires of your heart?

Who wants that in your life, in this church, in this country and around the world today? All of those desires were succinctly uttered when Jesus taught his disciples to pray and he uttered the powerful request: “*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*”

J.I. Packer says about this call out to God: “*More clearly than anywhere else the purpose of prayer becomes plain. The purpose of prayer is not to make God do my will but to bring my will into alignment with His.*”

“**Alignment**” is an important principle to understand and live by.

If you were to borrow my pickup right now and drive it for a short period of time you’d discover, rather quickly, that you can’t drive straight down the road with the steering wheel straight up and down. Rather you have to turn it slightly to the right in order for the truck to go straight down the road. Why is that? Because my truck is not properly aligned. And that’s very much like our lives. We can easily get off track as far as what God wants to accomplish in and through you life and we need to realign our hearts and minds to God’s will for your life. So, you could call this a “Realignment sermon”.

Throughout the Old Testament it’s clearly stated many times that God is seated on His throne in heaven.

Psalms 103:19-20 (NIV) *The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.*

Notice, that not only is God seated on His throne in heaven but that everyone in heaven obeys Him. In this portion of the Lord’s prayer we’re asking that God’s kingdom come from heaven to us and that His will always will be obeyed here as it is in heaven.

Many of the prophets in the Old Testament looked forward to a time when the Messiah would come from heaven to earth and establish God’s earthly kingdom here on earth.

Since the last prophet they'd been waiting over 500 years for this to happen. So, they had to have been pretty excited when John the Baptist showed up on the scene and started declaring, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.*" (Matthew 3:1-2)

Shortly after that Jesus showed up and began to talk about the coming of God's kingdom everywhere he went. And Jesus didn't merely talk about the coming of God's kingdom, he demonstrated the power of the kingdom by performing many miracles (Matthew 4:23)

Later, after healing a demon possessed man who was both blind and mute, Jesus declared that proof that the kingdom of God had come upon them was that he cast out demons (Matthew 12:28). You see Jesus came to earth to declare out right war on Satan and to take back the power and authority Satan had stolen from God's people. We were originally intended by God to have authority over this earth, but when Adam and Eve sinned, they handed that authority to Satan. Satan is often described as the "prince of this world". But when Jesus came to earth He declared all out war upon Satan and his kingdom of darkness. And when he died on the cross, He took back His rightful authority. And now, Christ is handing that authority over to His children and give them the authority and empower them to take back what belongs to them.

We see a precursor to that when Jesus sent out his disciples across the land and his instructions to them were:

Matthew 10:7-8 (NIV) *As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. "*

Doing miracles was visible proof that the kingdom of heaven had come near.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples, and us, about priorities in his kingdom. And he said:

Luke 12:29-34 (NIV) *And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.*

32 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Jesus is talking about re-alignment in his kingdom. It's so easy to get sidetracked by the worries and concerns of this world. We want God to bless our lives and keep us comfortable and healthy and everything going well. Jesus points out that if you make God's kingdom your primary pursuit, then God will take care of the rest. But we quite often don't make seeking God's kingdom our main priority. Jesus isn't talking about pursuing God's kingdom 1 day a week, a couple of hours on a Sunday morning, and maybe a few minutes each day during your "quiet time". No, Jesus is talking about seeking God's kingdom as the passionate pursuit of your daily life.

So, what is God's kingdom? The Jewish people were looking for the Messiah to establish a physical earthly kingdom. But Jesus clearly told Pilate that his kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36-37) And earlier in his ministry Jesus responded to the Pharisees inquiry as to when the kingdom of God would come by saying that the "*kingdom of God is already in your midst.*" (Luke 17:20-21). The NKJV translates it as "*the kingdom of God is within you.*"

I would define the "kingdom of God" as "*the rule of God in the hearts and minds of His people.*"

So, when we pray that God's kingdom come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven", we're primarily praying that God's kingly rule will be foremost in my life. This is described powerfully by the Apostle Paul in Colossians 1:9-14.

We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according

to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Paul's point is that we ought to strive to live the kind of life he describes in verses 9-12 because we've been transferred from the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of the Son he loves. I've left space on your outline this morning to list the characteristics of a person who is now living in God's kingdom, through Jesus. I'd encourage you to take time this afternoon to list those characteristics and then ask if those descriptions are true descriptors of your life right now. And if now, then perhaps you're trying to straddle kingdoms. Many Christians live daily in the kingdom of darkness (consumed with hopelessness, self-centeredness, various addictions, etc) and then every now and then they sacrificially give up a couple of hours on a Sunday morning to attend church. That's not what it looks like to seek God's kingdom and to live with the power of God's kingdom transforming us daily and empowering us to live a victorious life in which we're storming the Gates of Hell on a daily basis – both as individuals and as a church. I believe that most Christians pose very little threat to Satan and his kingdom because most of their lives are spent in his realm rather than in God's kingdom. Satan is the great distractor and he will get you consumed with the distractions in your life and then he doesn't have to worry about your storming his gates whatsoever.

I want to close with a couple of passages from Psalm 115.

The psalm begins with these words:

Psalms 115:1-3 (NIV) *Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness. 2 Why do the nations say, "Where is their God?" 3 Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.*

After that the psalmist writer talks about how people shape all sorts of other gods to worship, but they are empty and have no power.

After that is a call for the Lord to bless His people. And then he closes out the psalm with this observation.

Psalms 115:16 (NIV) *The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth he has given to mankind.*

Meditate on that powerful statement for just a moment. *"The heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth He has given to mankind."*

Let's say that final statement together but to personalize it where it says "*mankind*" say instead, **"ME"**! And say **"Me"** with great enthusiasm.

God wants to give us His kingdom, with it's ability to heal diseases and break addictions and transform us into the image of Jesus, to everyone of his children. And as He does, He fully anticipates that God's kingdom power will break out in your life, in this church, this community and across the world – which should result in many others coming to know Jesus and entering into His kingdom as well.

Sermon Outline
“Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done”
5/5/19

J.I. Packer: *“More clearly than anywhere else the purpose of prayer becomes plain. The purpose of prayer is not to make God do _____ but to bring my will into _____ with His.”*

How did Jesus demonstrate the kingdom of God had come?

What 2 things did Jesus send his disciples out to do?

1. _____
2. _____

What does it look like to *“seek God’s kingdom”* in your life?
How many hours do you commit to that each week?

God’s kingdom is the _____ of God in the _____ and _____ of His people.

According to Colossians 1:12 what should our response be to Christ rescuing us from the dominion of darkness and into His kingdom?

According to Psalm 115:16 who does the earth belong to?

How is God’s kingdom currently being demonstrated in and through your life?

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