

Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done...

Luke 11:1~4, part 3

This morning we find ourselves looking at the phrase, “*Thy Kingdom come...Thy Will be done...*”

Before any of us came to faith in Christ, there could be nothing further from the truth than this statement. Before we came to Christ, God’s kingdom and God’s will, was the absolute furthest thing from our minds. Better yet, it would be more accurate to say, it never crossed our minds. Before we came to Christ, we loved this world, we lived for this world, we based our decisions according to the ways of this world. We called the shots of our own lives, we determined what we would and would not do. We followed our own desires, and our own wills, pursued our own ambitions. We made our own plans, we determined our own destinies, we charted the course for our own lives...

But for those of us who have come to faith in Christ...all that has changed... If salvation is anything, it is the recognition of Jesus Christ as Lord over my life. God’s agenda replaces my agenda, and the redeemer of my soul, becomes the ruler of my life!

We are no longer the captain of our own ship...the pilot of our plane... We are no longer king of our own little world, we have relinquished all that, and submitted ourselves to another sovereign, to another King, far greater than ourselves. There is another agenda, another purpose, other goals, and other ambitions, far, far greater than our petty ones.

Selfish and Self-Centered living...has been replaced by “*Selflessness & Humble Submission.*” Our lives reflect the call of our Lord, “*If any man come after me, let him deny himself, take up the cross and follow men.*” It is the willful relinquishing of our self will, our desires and ambitions, handing over complete control of our lives, unto Jesus Christ.

Now I want to stress that, lest there be someone here who think it be anything less, because it’s not. If salvation is not anything else, it is this...the submission of our lives, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. I cannot stress this enough, because there is this, what I call, “*American Christianity*” in our day that allows men to “*hold onto their lives,*” and yet be declared a child of the kingdom...which is absolutely not true!

And as a result, there are many, who consider themselves “*saved,*” when they have done nothing more than add “*church*” to “*their lives.*” In their mind, they consider themselves “*believers*” simply because they attend church occasionally, and live a good moral life, not doing anything “*bad or evil*” per se. Yet, all the while, *they continue to reside on the throne of their heart,* they determine their own destinies, they still pursue their own ambition, their own goals, and walk to their own will and desires... Beloved, the gospel is a call to repentance, a call to turn from those very things, a call to turn from this world and from self, to give yourself to Christ and His kingdom...

Beloved, this is undoubtedly true, in that it is consistent with God’s will and plan for man... The call for men to repent, and “*humble themselves*” under the Lordship of Christ, is in keeping with the ever progressing plan of God, moving towards the reign of Jesus Christ over this world. Some day, *every knee will “do what?”...bow to Him.* Some day, every tongue shall confess, that Jesus is Lord. That is the call of the gospel to every man, every woman. To resist and to fight it, is deadly, it’s damning and eternally destructive. Either way, know this, that is the way all of history is moving. God is going to give His Son absolute lordship over all. You can either bow the knee willingly, or you will bow it unwillingly. Bow willingly, and you will enjoy eternal bliss...but wait and bow it unwillingly, and you will endure eternal punishment.

As we come to this morning's teaching, it's really nothing new, but rather serves more as an affirmation of the longing that is already in our hearts. The desire for the promotion of God's kingdom and God's will, in this world. It's one of the "evidences" of a changed heart, proof of the working of God's grace in their lives. Outside the working of grace in a man's heart, man would continue to live to his own will, and desires, continuing to live for and love this world... (It's all he knows... it's all he can do...) But through the power of God's grace, men's hearts are changed... their hearts are turned upward... "*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done*"...

I want us to look at each one of these, beginning with the first one, "*Thy kingdom come.*" (Though I will touch on "*Thy will be done,*" I will speak more to it next time...)

As we consider "*thy kingdom come,*" it becomes important, that we correctly understand what it means. That phrase, "*Kingdom of God,*" is the most used "*Phrase*" in the New Testament. Sometimes translated, "*Kingdom of heaven,*" it was the central focus of Jesus' preaching and teaching ministry. His first words to Israel were, "*Repent ye, for the kingdom of God is at hand.*" The first thing He said to Israel, was the announcement of the arrival of God's kingdom! John the Baptist, had just prior proclaimed to them, that the King was on the way, and called for everyone to get ready for His arrival, by getting their hearts right, calling on them to "*Repent!*" Everything around the ministry of these two men, revolved around this coming Kingdom of God...

(Luke 4) **Jesus...** ⁴³ *I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.*

From the onset of his ministry, to the very end, in His death and resurrection, He focus was on the proclamation of the "*Kingdom of God.*" Having established the fact, that this "*Kingdom of God*" was the focal point of His ministry, it's important to understand WHAT IT IS...

The "*Kingdom*" that Jesus was referring to was a "*Spiritual Kingdom.*" Now, that doesn't mean, it's not a real kingdom, for it is. I say that, because many do not believe in it, for the simple fact they cannot SEE it. But just because you can't SEE it, doesn't mean it's not real! As a matter of fact, the longer I walk with Christ, I'm finding out, that what you can't see, is more real than what you can see! I understand more and more, that everything that we see is temporary, while that which is unseen is eternal! That is the very substance of my faith, for I do not live for what I see, because I know in time it will perish and fade away, but rather, I seek that which is eternal, that which is above...

Jesus is talking about a "*Spiritual Kingdom*"... *Speaking of His rule and reign in the hearts of His people.* It is a kingdom, that the unregenerate of this world cannot understand... Nearly the entire nation of Israel, missed it, and couldn't get it. Nor did the leaders of the known world... like Pilate...

(John 18) ³³ *Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?* ³⁴ *Jesus answered him, Say this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?* ³⁵ *Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?* ³⁶ *Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.* ³⁷ *Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then?* *Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth hears my voice.*

Jesus affirms He is a KING... it's just not the kind of King that Pilate is referring to... Jesus has no desire to sit on a throne in Jerusalem, and rule over the people. He's not come to "*govern the lives*" of people, with politics and laws. But rather, He had come to establish a "*Spiritual kingdom,*" one that He would dwell in the hearts of His people, reigning as King of Kings and Lord of Lords...

“My kingdom is not of this world”... That’s a very important statement... Because understood, that means that anyone who follows Him, must be willing to *“give up this world,”* this earthly kingdom, to follow Him.

The best way to understand this, it to understand, that there are only really two kingdoms. There is the *“Kingdom of God,”* and the *“Kingdom of Satan.”* (A reference to this world) There is the *“Kingdom of darkness”* as Paul called it, and the *“Kingdom of His dear Son”*...just the two. And everybody is in one or the other. We are either the children of God in His kingdom, or the children of the devil, in his kingdom. We either serve God or we serve Satan. There is no *“middle ground.”* Jesus said, *“You are either with me...or against me.”*

As believers, it should not be hard to understand, that all of our desires and longings, and hopes would be indicative of the kingdom to which we belong. In the words of Christ, ***“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also...”*** That is a basic and elementary principle, but at the same time holds a weighty and profound truth. In short, Jesus says there, ***“If you love this world, and live to this world...then you belong to the world...If you love God, and seek those things above, then you belong to God.”*** It’s that simple, wherever your treasure is, *“your desires, your love, and so forth is”* that is where your heart is. That is the kingdom you belong too. In the words of John, *“If any man love the world...the love of the Father is not in him...”* The only thing left to do, is for each of us to closely examine our hearts, to see where we stand.

That very statement alone, ***“Thy kingdom come”***...reflects a *“rejection of this world,”* does it not? That very cry, ***“Thy kingdom come”***...reflects a dissatisfaction and disapproval of this worlds kingdom, does it not? It is a desire for God’s rule and reign over the earth, a longing for Him to be our KING!

“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done” is the longing in a believers heart, for HIS *“Rule & Reign”* in our lives. It is a cry for HIS purposes, HIS agenda, HIS desires to be carried out in our lives... To the end, that He would be *glorified* through our lives... It is this cry, that fulfills the previous statement...

“Hallowed by thy name” is an expression of a longing to *“Glorify the name of God”* in the earth... Hallowed comes from Holy, meaning to separate. *“Hallowed by thy name”* expresses the desire to separate His name, among all others in the earth, to exalt it above every other name.

“Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven...”

“Father, you are Holy...and your name is above every other name... and I love you so much, and more than anything, I long to bring you honor and glory in my life...Let my life, both in the way I live, and the witness that I give, influence others for the kingdom! Whatever the sacrifice, whatever the cost, whatever the price...do it Lord, bring it about!”