

Luke 11:1~4, part 4

As we continue our study this morning, we come to the phrase, “*Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done...on earth, as it is in heaven.*” Those two pleas, when combined, reflect a longing for the “*rule and reign of God*” **in our lives**... “*Thy kingdom come*...expresses a humble submission to God’s authority over our lives, while “*Thy will be done*...expresses a submissive obedience to God’s purposes and plans in our lives.

If salvation is anything, it is the recognition of Jesus Christ as Lord over my life... “*Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done*...” represent the antithesis of the desires that we once walked in, back before we came to know Christ. Like the rest of this world, we gave no thought to God and His kingdom, we gave no thought to what God desired. Like everyone else, we too were *all wrapped up in this world*, pursuing the things of this world, doing our own thing. 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*... God’s agenda replaces my agenda, and the redeemer of my soul, becomes the ruler of my life!

Last week, we looked at the first half of this statement...“*Thy kingdom come*”... And as I explained, 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*.” There is the “*Kingdom of darkness*” as Paul called it, and the “*Kingdom of His dear Son*,” the “*Kingdom of heaven*” and the “*Kingdom of this world*”...**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.

We see this same point being made throughout scripture... Jesus said, “*No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*” Mammon refers to the things of this world. The point is simple, no man can live to this world, and live to God at the same time, for they are complete opposites, and are in opposition to each other. That’s what He means by that “*he will hate the one, and love the other, or he will hold to the one, and despise the other.*” You cannot love good, and what is evil at the same time. You cannot love truth, unless you hate lies. You cannot love righteousness, unless you hate unrighteousness...and so on. *You cannot serve God and mammon*...a man will give himself to seeking physical, material, carnal things of this world...or he will seek the spiritual things of God, **one or the other**. Whoever lives for this world, and the things of this world, lives unto the “*God of this world*,” Satan.

John tells us the same thing, “*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*”

In the words of James...“Know ye not that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoso therefore is a friend of the world, is an enemy of God.” Over and over in scripture, we see this same thing... Jesus said, “*You are either with me...or against me.*” There is no “*middle ground*.” You are either “*Of this world*” or you are “*Of the kingdom of God*”...**one of the two**.

Which one that is, is determined by where your affections lie...by where your heart is. There’s an old saying that carries a lot of truth, “*Home is where the heart is.*” That is basically the truth Jesus was teaching in Matthew 6, when he talked about laying up treasures. There He taught His disciples to “*Lay up treasures*” in heaven, and not on earth. I’ve heard that taught many ways, I’ve even heard that text

used to support tithing. (A gross misuse and abuse of scripture) The point of that passage was about seeking, true, lasting riches. He was teaching them to “*set their affections*” on things above...and not here below. He clarifies His point, by saying, “*Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also...*” It’s that simple, wherever your treasure is, speaking of “*your desires, your love, and so forth*”...**that is where your heart is.** That is the kingdom you belong too. *Home is where the heart is...*

As God’s people, we may be “*In this world,*” but we are certainly not “*Of this world.*” As God’s people, we are best described as *pilgrims* and *strangers*...as *foreigners* in a strange land. **Why?** Because **this world** is not our home anymore, we have become *citizens of heaven!* We, like Abraham, seek for a city whose builder and maker is God.

The cry, “*Thy kingdom come...*” is merely an expression of the longing of our hearts, for the rule and reign of Christ! It reflects a rejection of the “*kingdoms of this world,*” along with the rulers of this world, in exchange for Christ and His kingdom. “*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by your name, THY kingdom come*”...

This is followed by another plea...“*Thy will be done...on earth, as it is in heaven.*” That last statement, “*on earth as it is in heaven*” is very important to understand. We know that ultimately, that in the big scheme of things, that everything that happens does so in accordance to His will. We know that in the overall scheme of things, everything is moving towards God’s predetermined plan, and nothing or no one can alter that. But at the same time, everything that happens is not “*God’s will.*” In fact, most of what happens in this fallen world, is contrary to His will. But our cry is that He would be honored, that His kingdom would be advanced, and that His will would be done here, the way it’s done there!

In order to fully understand this one, “*Thy will be done,*” we must first define what we mean, when we speak of the “**WILL**”... Just as we did with the “**KINGDOM**,” we must first clearly define “*What IT is.*” The word literally translates...“*determination.*” When we speak of the “**WILL**,” we are talking about this “*THING, inside of us,*” that “*drives us.*” It is “*this energy,*” or “*this SPIRIT*” inside us, that causes us to get up and go.

(Example) Just as an “*engine*” empowers a car to go, the “**WILL**” is what “*drives us*”... If the engine is broken, the car is powerless to move about. But if it is good, then it has the power to move about. Well, in the same manner, the “**WILL**” acts like an engine, in that IT is the power that “*drives us.*” Understood...it is the “*Spirit*” inside of a man, that is the very source of life, in that IT “*Produces life.*”

If we were to reduce it down to its most basic form, it would refer to the DESIRES of a man... When we talk about the “*Will of a man*”, we’re talking about the “*Desires of a man.*” (Stay with me, we’re almost there...) And where does a man’s *desires* come from? Right, his heart... So, ultimately, it all comes down, to the “*desires*” of a man’s heart...

So what we’re saying is, the *LIFE* that a man lives, is the “*product*” of the *desires* of his heart... Why do people go fishing? Because they enjoy it right? It’s a desire they have. Why is it that some people never go fishing, want no part of it? They have no such desire in their heart. The same is true with every single aspect in life, whether it be sports, hobbies, activities, whatever. Some people manifest that they have little desire for any such things, other than sit around the house and do nothing. And that’s fine, but my point is still, their life reflects the desires of their heart!

The point I’m trying to make to you, is that *a man’s life*, is the “*product*” of the desires of his heart! Whatever’s “*in here,*” (Heart)...will be “*Fleshed out*” here, speaking of our day-to-day **Life** in the World.

You may say, “*Interesting preacher, but what does all of that have to do with “praying?” What does that have to do with the teaching here on how we are to pray?* EVERYTHING! It has EVERYTHING to do

with it... At the heart of the gospel of Christ, is the call to “*Repentance.*” The call for men/women to TURN from living to their own WILLS, their own DESIRES!

Beloved, we need to understand something...inside of us; we have “*this spirit,*” that drives us. It is what is most commonly called the “*human will*” or “*human nature.*” But according to the gospel of Christ, it is a desperately wicked, desperately sinful thing. It is a rebellious spirit, one that is contrary to God, one that naturally opposes the things of God. It is what the apostle Paul refers to as the “*Flesh,*” the “*sinful nature*” that every man is born with. Everything in IT is sinful and evil. Everything IT desires, is contrary to God, and is opposed to God. Speaking of “*this nature,*” man’s nature, Paul says <sup>18</sup>*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwells no good thing...*(Ro. 7)

Beloved, inside every man/women, that has ever been born into this world, is this sinful, corrupt nature, that naturally opposes God, and everything about Him! Understood, it is the “*spirit of Satan.*” Unregenerate man is the “*offspring of Satan,*” they are “*his children.*” This is evidenced by the fact, that men naturally love this world, and the things of this world. A world, that according to the scriptures, that is currently under the control and powers of darkness! Satan is currently the “*God of this world...*” And all who live for it, and live to the “*flesh,*” speaking of their own self-will”...are the children of this world.

And listen, there’s **no cleaning IT up...no** “*Straightening it out!*” This thing is completely defiled and corrupted. This is extremely important that we understand this, because the answer is not “*Religion.*” Many in our day are *deceived...*they think because they adhere to religion, attend church occasionally, try and live right, living morally clean. And the fact that they don’t do anything really “*bad.*” They think that they are “*ok*” with God, when the truth is they’re not! Though they mean well, though they have good intentions, it cannot help them. Because the problem goes much deeper, than merely “*our actions.*” It goes much deeper than that, the problem is with our “*nature!*” You can clean IT up with religion, but that alone is in vain.

This thing is beyond “*cleaning up,*” it will take way more than “*religion.*” That’s where the gospel of Christ comes in. The call of Christ, is a call to REPENTANCE... A call to TURN from this THING, a call to turn from “*Self-Will,*” from this “*Human Nature,*” or whatever you want to call it, and to submit yourself to the “*Spirit of Christ!*” Serving “*His will*”...

Christ came not to offer men another religion, or to add to the religion that men already possessed... He came simply offering to men a “*cross*”... The “*Cross*” is what separates Christianity from every other religion in the world. The Christian life, is a life of “*Daily dying to this Self.*” “*If any man come after me, let him deny himself, take up the cross and follow me...*” It is a daily putting this “*Self-Will,*” this “*Human Will*” to death...in turn so we can follow after a new spirit, the spirit of Christ!

Listen, I cannot stress to you enough, the necessity that every man/women turn from their “*own WILL*” to **DO the WILL of GOD...**

There is no other way! This is what Jesus meant, when He said, “*I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father, but by me.*” Jesus was not saying, that if you “*believe*” in me, and live a good life, that you’ll be saved. NO, but rather, He is affirming the fact, that if men will believe His message, and turn from the flesh, and follow Him...then they will be saved! For all who do not, anyone who continues to live to “*Self-Will,*” continuing to live “*his life*” in this world, and to this world...they will perish! No matter how religious they might be! There’s no better example of this, than in Matthew 7...

<sup>21</sup>*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.* <sup>22</sup>*Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?* <sup>23</sup>*And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Listen, a man may be very religious, giving himself to the service of God, participating in the worship of God, doing everything he can...but if he does so, in the power of his own will, in the flesh, he's no better off than the vilest of sinners... Why? Because he's still in the flesh...or rather, the sinful nature is still inside of him... (Illus: Washed pig 2Peter)

(Matthew 12) <sup>46</sup>While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. <sup>47</sup>Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. <sup>48</sup>But he answered and said unto him that told him, *Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?* <sup>49</sup>And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, *Behold my mother and my brethren!* <sup>50</sup>***For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.***

Here we find an instance, where Jesus' family (mother and brothers) had come looking for him, wanting to talk with Him. When one of the people told Him this, He used the situation as a teaching opportunity, to teach "Who it was" that was "His family." (Family of God) Hearing the announcement, "your family is here and want to speak with you," Jesus turns and stretches out his hands toward the disciples, and says, *This my mother and my brethren!* <sup>50</sup>***For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.***

The point is simple...even though His own mother and brothers were blood related, that did not make them part of the family of God. His mother Mary, and His brothers, had no advantage as far as being shown leniency or favor, if they were going to be a part of the family of God; it would require them to come, like everyone else...through "Repentance!"

Repentance means "to turn"... **Turn from what?** Turn from living to "this world," and living to "our own will, our own desires," to live our lives for "God's kingdom" and "God's will"... For God's people, "repentance" becomes a "way of life." That's what Jesus is teaching here, by teaching that prayer is a seeking of God's kingdom, and God's will for our lives...

*"Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven..."*