

YOUR KINGSHIP COME

Tuesday, February 17

Reading: Romans 14:16-19

Romans 14:17 *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit*

The 1888 poem ‘Invictus’ by William Ernest Henley describes the attitude of most people today.

Out of the night that covers me, / Black as the Pit from pole to pole, / I thank whatever gods may be / For my unconquerable soul. / In the fell clutch of circumstance / I have not winced nor cried aloud. / Under the bludgeonings of chance / My head is bloody, but unbowed. / Beyond this place of wrath and tears / Looms but the Horror of the shade, / And yet the menace of the years / Finds, and shall find, me unafraid. / It matters not how strait the gate, / How charged with punishments the scroll, / I am the master of my fate: / I am the captain of my soul.

Sadly, many Christians live with this attitude as well, whether they admit it or not! Many Christians pray “Your kingdom come” but never stop to think about what these words mean. If we are honest, we would have to admit that we don’t like to give someone else control. With Henley, we say “I am the master...I am the captain.”

When we pray “Your kingdom come”, we are not merely praying for Christ to come back and set up His earthly kingdom. We are praying for Him to rule and reign in our hearts right now! We are saying, “Jesus, YOU are my King!” This can be a dangerous prayer. It is a plea to release the reins of our life and give them to Christ to lead us wherever He wants us to go.

1 Corinthians 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

Romans 14:17-18 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

In describing the “now” aspect of the kingdom of God, the New Testament is clear that it is about who is in control – who has the power. Is it you or the Holy Spirit? Is your life marked by “righteousness, peace, and joy” or is it controlled by personal desires, conflict, and worry? Are you serving Christ to please Him or are you living for yourself?

In Exodus 19:6, God called the Israelites to be “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” In the last book of the New Testament, God calls us “a kingdom of priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth” (Revelation 5:10; see also 1:6). A priest is one who represents people before God and represents God to the people. We are called to live in such a way that people see Jesus shining through our lives (Matthew 5:16) and bring people before God in our prayers (Ephesians 3:14-19).

How do we pray for God’s kingdom to come? First, pray for people and leaders to put God first in their lives and decisions. More importantly, pray that YOU would put God first in every area of your life! Allow Jesus to be your King! Are you living like Jesus is your King? What areas of your life do you need to give over to the Lord and say “You are in charge and I surrender to Your rule?”