



THY KINGDOM COME.

Kingdom. The word isn't one we encounter often. It elicits images of medieval times with armies and knights and wars - or we think back to the latest Disney princess movie (Arandelle anyone?)

The people of Israel hoped for a physical king to bring armies against their oppressors. They longed for a strong kingdom in this world. But as people who live in a society where we vote for temporary elected officials, what are *we* actually saying when we pray, "Thy kingdom come?"

God's kingdom is not limited to time or location. Its subjects are not determined by borders or behaviors. The kingdom the Israelites hoped for was not God's kingdom at all. God's Kingdom is *active*; it is the work of God - it is healing and restoration, love and service.

When we pray, "Thy kingdom come," we are asking God's kingdom to come and reign *in us*. We are asking Him to move in us, to help us see people as He sees people, to love people as He loves people, and submit to His perfect leadership.

IN THE BIBLE.

Matthew 6:9-10

“This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
10 your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 13:31-33

31 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

33 He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

Luke 15:8-10

8 “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins[a] and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

QUESTIONS.

- 1.) When we say, "Thy kingdom come," what are we praying?
- 2.) What are some other attributes of God's kingdom?
- 3.) Where have you seen the kingdom of God at work this week?
- 4.) We said earlier we get to "submit to His perfect leadership." But "submitting" can be a stressful word. Why is submitting to God a good thing?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?