

# THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE

## Studies in the Sermon on the Mount

### XXX: “Thy Kingdom Come”

#### I. Introduction

##### A. Review

1. We are working our way through the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 and have come to the most famous prayer in the world, the Lord’s Prayer.
2. We have seen that the Lord’s Prayer is a *model* prayer...

**“After this manner pray ye...”**

**Matthew 6:9**

- a. The Greek word for “manner” could be translated; “pray in this way” or “pray after this fashion”.
  - b. Jesus is not saying “Pray this”; He is saying “Pray like this”!
3. There is to be a certain *order* for our prayers.

##### B. What is the Proper Order of Prayer?

1. Jesus teaches us to *begin* all our prayers on this foundation...

**“Our Father, who art in heaven...”**

2. We don’t rush in spewing out our prayer requests! We come to God in the spirit of “adoption”, whereby we cry “Abba, Father”....

3. **“Hallowed be Thy name...”** means “Holy”, or to be worshipped.

4. We begin with “Our Father”; then we worship; and then, *and only then*, do we begin to ask God for things! And the 1<sup>st</sup> thing we are to ask for is our message tonight...

**“Thy kingdom come...”**

**Matthew 6:10**

5. Before we begin to ask God for what WE want, we are to ask God for what HE wants!

a. God wants us to put HIS will above OUR will!

b. We see this in the Garden of Gethsemane, with Jesus facing the cup of suffering on the Cross; His flesh dreaded it, but look how He prayed...

**“...and He knelt down and *began* to pray, saying, "Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done."**

**Luke 22:42 NASB**

6. We don't always know God's will for us when we pray; but we always know it is God's will for His Kingdom to come!

7. But what does *that* mean? What is the Kingdom of God?

## **II. A Crash Course on the Kingdom of God**

### **3 Things You Have to Know About the Kingdom**

- It is the most important subject in the Bible
- It is God's will done on earth as it is in heaven
  - It is “now” but “not yet”

#### **A. The Most Important Subject in the Bible!**

1. Here's a startling statement for you: **The Kingdom of God is the most important subject in the Bible!**

a. There are many important subjects in the Bible: Faith, Prayer, Worship, spiritual warfare; but all of these are subsumed, swallowed up in the bigness of the Kingdom of God! Consider the evidence.

**Matthew 3:1-2; 4:17 & 10:7**

b. It was the main message of John the Baptist:

**In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."**

**Matthew 3:1-2 NLT**

c. When John was put in prison, Jesus picked up the theme...

**From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."**

**Matthew 4:17 NLT**

d. He sent His disciples out with a specific sermon subject...

**"And as you go, preach, saying the Kingdom of heaven is a hand..."**

**Matthew 10:7**

e. Jesus Himself said His purpose on earth was to preach the Kingdom of heaven...

**I must preach the good news of the Kingdom...for I was sent for this purpose.**

**Luke 4:43**

f. He said it was the first thing we are to seek...

**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things  
(the world worries about) will be added unto you.**

**Matthew 6:33**

g. Listening to most sermons, you would think the Church is more important than the Kingdom. But Jesus only mentioned the church TWICE in all 4 Gospels; but He mentioned the Kingdom of God 50 TIMES in the Gospel of Matthew alone!

h. Remember this great Sermon began with the 1<sup>st</sup> Beatitude; “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven”?; and Jesus mentions the Kingdom 8 more times in the Sermon.

i. Even the secularized online Wikipedia says this:

**The purpose of both individual Christians and the church as a whole is to  
manifest the kingdom of God on the earth.**

**Wikipedia**

So remember this: The Kingdom of God is the most important subject in the Bible...so what does it mean? The simplest answer is found in right here in the Prayer...

**Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

2. The 1<sup>st</sup> thing we are to pray for is that heaven comes down into the earth!

**B. The Kingdom of God is God's Will Done on Earth as it is in Heaven**

1. Anyone can look around and see that God's will is not always done on earth. But is there anyone who thinks God's will is not done in Heaven?

2. So what does God's will being done in Heaven look like?

- Do you think there are any sinful people in Heaven?
- Do you think there are any sick people in Heaven?
- No! Because God's will is perfectly being done in Heaven!

3. And this must be our prayer: God's will be done on earth in the same way it is done in Heaven.

- We must pray that the lost be saved
- We must pray that the sick be healed

**This is "Kingdom Theology"; to see Heaven come to earth!**

4. In one sense the Kingdom of God has already come, because Jesus brought it with Him!

**One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, "When will the Kingdom of God come?" Jesus replied, "The Kingdom of God can't be detected by visible signs. You won't be able to say, 'Here it is!' or 'It's over there!' For the Kingdom of God is already among you."**

**Luke 17:20-21 NLT**

5. Jesus brought Heaven to earth; He did God's will on earth as it is done in Heaven...

- a. Where He found the lost, He saved them
- b. Where He found the sick, He healed them
- c. Where He found the demons, He cast them out!

**If I am casting out demons by the power of God, the Kingdom has arrived among you.**

**Luke 11:20**

6. So if the Kingdom came with Jesus, why does He tell us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come"? Which brings us to our final point...

### **C. The Kingdom of God is Both “Now” but “Not Yet”**

1. The Kingdom came with Jesus; the Kingdom is here on earth now wherever God’s will is done; but the Kingdom, in its fullest expression, is not yet.

**The theological concept of "already" and "not yet" was proposed by Princeton theologian Geerhardus Vos early in the 20th century, who believed that we live in the present age, the 'now', and await the 'age to come'**

2. Here is what other great men of God have said:

**“In one sense, the Kingdom has already come. It came with the Lord Jesus. The Kingdom is also here at this moment in the lives of all who submit to Him. But the day is yet to come when His Kingdom shall be fully established on earth.”**

**David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

a. Pastor/Author/Theologian John Piper says...

**“The Kingdom of God is partly present and partly future. Many of its blessings are here to be enjoyed now; but many of them are not yet here.”**

**John Piper**

b. The late George Eldon Ladd, Professor of Theology at Fuller Institute...

**“The Kingdom of God is described in scripture as a realm presently entered and as one entered in the future. It is present and also future.”**

**George Eldon Ladd**

3. We say, “Jesus is Lord”, which is present tense. Christ is King, right now. But we do not see His will fully done on earth.

**Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.**

**Hebrews 2:8**

4. The Kingdom has come; it is here; but not fully.

**The Kingdom of God is still advancing.**

And this is why Jesus told us to pray. “Thy Kingdom come.”

### **III. Conclusion**

#### **A. Review:**

- Our 1<sup>st</sup> prayer request is “Thy Kingdom come”
- The Kingdom is God’s will done on earth as it is in heaven
- Therefore...

#### **3 Things You Have to Know About the Kingdom**

- It is the most important subject in the Bible
- It is God’s will done on earth as it is in heaven
  - It is “now” but “not yet”

1. And one last thing...

**And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.**

**Matthew 24:14**

2. Instead of looking for the Antichrist, we should be preaching this Gospel of the Kingdom!

**“Thy Kingdom Come!”**