



Sunday Sermon Notes: Sept. 30, 2018

God's KINGDOM and His sovereignty – Matthew 6:10

Matt. 6:10 – your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. . . . ἔλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου· γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου, ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς·

JESUS PRAYS TWO THINGS:

I. CONFIDENCE IN THE CERTAINTY OF GOD'S KINGDOM – your kingdom come. . . .

- As appropriate and redundant as it might be to pray “Holy be your name”, so it is with the second two petitions. These need not be uttered to be just as true, but the clarity they provide on this new reality allows us to see things in sharp relief to how it has been. There's a new day and a new Kingdom. This new kingdom will stand securely and supremely its holiness and authority. There can be no questioning or doubt even if it feels like this might be in jeopardy or if we lack the capacity to see it from where we stand now.
- God's Kingdom is already here, but not yet realized - The prayer might just as well be translated, “Bring your eschatological kingdom HERE!” God's kingdom stands supreme! To fully comprehend this reality, one must acknowledge that His Kingdom SHALL come! There's no way to subvert it or pervert it. There's no method to prevent it. There's no means to slow it. God's Kingdom cannot be thwarted, and it cannot be stymied. It shall arrive! How is this impressive dominion completed? Through God's authority to bring it to bear. The Creator is still creating. His creation is not yet fully realized but it is established and coming!
- God's Kingdom is expressed in God's rightful rule - Just as certain as God's holiness is His rightful rule. There is no mistaking his authority to stand supremely above all things. This certainty is not as clear as it will be but here's the beginning point. Jesus' ministry launches the new kingdom but it's fullest recognition won't arrive until the return of Christ. The Gospel is itself proclamation of Christ's kingdom expressed here on earth.
- WHY PRAY THIS? To pray this is to pray for God's saving and royal rule. It is to pray that our salvation find its expression in the fullness of Christ's kingdom. In SPITE of what we might see elsewhere, we can pray for the kingdom to come!
- For the Jewish listeners to Jesus' words, their minds might have gone to a prayer used regularly at the close of the synagogue meetings – The Qaddish - “Exalted and hallowed be his great name in the world which he created according to his will. May he let his kingdom rule in your lifetime and in your days and in the lifetime of the whole house of Israel, speedily and soon. And to this, say: amen”
- Whereas the Jewish speakers saw this as a future event, Jesus speaks of it in present terms. This kingdom WILL come. Indeed, it's already here! Even if we don't see it in its fullest form, it is already here. We see it in changed lives, bent toward Christ and away from sin. We see it redeemed marriages, brought back by the kindness of a loving and forgiving God.

II. 2. CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S SETTLED AND DEFINITIVE WILL – your will be done. . . . “Cause your will to be fulfilled on earth like it is in Heaven.”

- God's Will is Unstoppable and Unavoidable. Quite similar to the previous petition, this statement reminds us the evil kingdom will not stand forever. God's will SHALL be

FIRST BAPTIST

MIDLAND

accomplished. God's will SHALL NOT be thwarted. God's authority shall NOT be infringed. Christ's authority is absolute and His rule over all things is certain, even if we aren't there yet. This settled reality is the fulfillment of Philippians 2 – every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, Jesus Christ is LORD.”

- Akin to the expression of Genesis 1:3 (“Let there be light”), the concept of God's will being completed is not an abstract theory or a far-fetched idea. It's a ideal that SHALL be accomplished when Christ's kingdom is full realized.
- What it will look like when God's Will is completed:
- The word “will” here means more than simple desired direction. The term here indicates
- God's righteous demands are completed (Matthew 7:21; 12:50; cf. Ps 40:8); God's fully accomplished purposes according to God's definitive wishes. In God's realized Kingdom, evil doesn't exist at all.
- God's kingdom citizens work toward a wholehearted willingness to be personally involved in humble obedience to the new plan. It's impossible to sincerely pray these kind of prayers without fully submitting to the King who stands over them.

WHAT PREVENTS THIS FROM HAPPENING NOW?

- SELFISHNESS – I want what I want and I don't want to share. It's MY kingdom I want to build, not God's.
- ANGER – But I want my needs met first!
- BITTERNESS – Why CAN'T it be about me?
- RESENT – The Kingdom is going the way I think it should so I'm going to withhold until it's corrected.
- SIN – The full culmination of those things above. Nothing more and nothing less. Our own brokenness is the hindrance preventing us from the full realization of this presence.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Seek God's Forgiveness personally
- Seek Justice for those who need it.
- Seek Peace where you can bring it
- Seek God's Kingdom NOW in Your home and world – Oct 4th – Bring your Bible to School day. Why limit it to school? Why not to work too? Why not to our club meetings?