

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020

# AND WHEN YOU PRAY...

YOUR KINGDOM COME | MATTHEW 6:9-10

Jesus brings the middle section of the Sermon on the Mount to a conclusion by encouraging us...

*“...Do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the [those who do not know God] run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:31-33).*

The Lord’s Prayer (which falls in the middle of the middle section, and at the very center of the sermon itself) follows the same pattern. Jesus encourages us in the first three petitions to honor God’s name, seek his kingdom, and do his will. The prayer then flows seamlessly into our needs for the day—our need for bread, our need to forgive and be forgiven, and our need for spiritual vigilance and protection.

Our needs can be overwhelming and inexhaustible. We need to remember we have a heavenly Father who not only knows what we need before we ask him (Matthew 6:6-8).

He is more committed to our needs than we are, and better yet, he knows exactly how to meet our needs—in the right way, at the right moment, in the right measure. In the words of John Piper, “He is most glorified in us when we are most fully satisfied in him.”

In the first half of the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus invites us to find our ultimate satisfaction in him by honoring his name, seeking his kingdom and doing his will. When these priorities are in place, he promises, “all these other things will be given to you as well.”

## **GOD'S NAME (v. 9b)**

*VERSE 9b: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*

1. While "Father" highlights the nearness of God, "hallowed be your name" emphasizes the absolute transcendence of God. How can we simultaneously embrace God as our Father and honor him as the one who is utterly and unfathomably Holy?
2. The first petition of the Lord's prayer is built on the third commandment: "'You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God...' (Deuteronomy 5:11). How do we misuse God's name?
3. The petition literally reads, "sanctify (or make holy) your name." God's name is already holy. What are we really asking for when we ask God to make his name Holy?
4. Devout Jews would not even speak the name of God in fear that they might take it far too lightly. Do you think this is what God had in mind? Why not?
5. What are some practical ways we can honor God's name?

## **SEEKING GOD'S KINGDOM (v. 10a)**

*VERSE 10a: ...your kingdom come,*

1. What typically comes to mind when you think of a king and a kingdom?
2. In what way is God king?
3. How would you describe his kingdom?
4. What does it mean for his kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven?
5. Jesus' contemporaries spoke of God's kingdom as a future reality when the Messiah would come and restore the fortunes of God's people. Jesus spoke of God's kingdom as a present reality. "If it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you (Matthew 12:28)."
  - a. How is God's kingdom a present reality?

- b. In what ways is the kingdom yet future (Don't get into needless theological arguments over this one. Be humble. The other person might be right)?
- c. What does it mean to live as kingdom people?

## **DOING GOD'S WILL (v. 10b)**

*VERSE 10b ... your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

1. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus describes those who truly know him as those who do his will (see Matthew 7:21; 12:50). Why do you think a desire to do God's will is a reliable indicator that we truly know him?
2. In Sunday's message, we described God's will as a wrestling match you want to lose. Why is it a wrestling match? Why do we want to lose?
3. What are some areas where you are currently wrestling with God?
4. How can you plan on losing in the week to come?