

Sermon Title: **Kingdom, Power, and Glory Praise**

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Vessel: Russ LaFlamme

Scripture Reference: **Matthew 6:13**

Thesis: **Jesus began with praise to God and now comes full circle to end with praise to the Father;**

Purpose: **We will find our hope in the acknowledgement of God's abilities to provide and protect with ultimate power.**

Key Word: "God's Position, Power & Praise"

Key Points: #1 God's Position

#2 God's Power

#3 God's Praise

I) Introduction:

Scripture Reading is: **Matthew 6:13**

A) The Setting:

- 1) **On Tuesday, August 23, 3200 people gathered in Capital Park in Augusta, Maine at noon for a prayer rally.**
  - (a) Decision America had come to Maine
  - (b) 36<sup>th</sup> stop of 50 for Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham and President of the Billy Graham Association and Samaritan's Purse.
  - (c) Going to the State Capital of each state to pray for our Nation.
- 2) **While no legislators or politicians were visibly present as this was not a political rally.**
  - (a) Franklin began by telling the crowd that America was in trouble.
  - (b) Zero confidence in the Democratic Party to fix the mess
  - (c) Zero confidence in the Republican Party to fix the problems in America again.
    - (i) Spoke to the moral decline of our country,
    - (ii) The killing of the unborn,
    - (iii) Corruption within all aspects of our society
    - (iv) And our political system is unequipped to deal with the problems in America.
- 3) **There were some peaceful demonstrators with signs on the fringes of the crowd promoted their first amendment rights.**
  - (a) There was at least one carrying a sign that read, "*I'm okay with burning in Hell.*"
  - (b) Franklin stated that there is only ONE hope for America and that is putting our Hope back in God.
  - (c) Sighting **2 Chronicles 7:14**, "*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*"
- 4) **This was a rally cry to return to prayer.**
  - (a) Franklin then led the crowd to prayer, confessing the sins of our Nation.
  - (b) Reminding us that we are all born into sin and need to confess our sins.
- 5) **Opportunity was given to silently confess our personal sins and commit ourselves to be used in God's kingdom.**
  - (a) The gospel message was shared and opportunity for those who had never made a decision to follow Christ were invited to pray the sinner's prayer.
  - (b) Franklin wanted them to have some materials so he asked those who had prayed that prayer to text a number and click on decision; and they would receive some materials to help them understand what it meant to follow Jesus.
  - (c) It was later reported that 122 people at this rally gave their life to Christ.
- 6) **We prayed for our nation, our legislators and government workers who serve our state, and we prayed for our police officers serving to protect us and keep the peace.**
  - (a) It was a peaceful event, very moving and uplifting and I am glad I attended it.
  - (b) People were encourage to research the political platforms of the parties running for office and where possible choose candidates that best represent the Christian World view.

- 7) People were also encouraged to sign a pledge of 6 statements by texting with their cell phones.
- 8) **Our Pledge to God**
- **Pledging to honor God at home**—by living biblical principles, striving for purity in or out of marriage, and pursuing godliness in all my relationships.  
Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; Romans 12:10; John 13:34
  - **Pledging to honor God in public**—by standing for biblical principles and serving those in need.  
James 1:27; Isaiah 58:10; 1 Corinthians 16:13
  - **Pledging to honor God with YOUR vote**—supporting, where possible, candidates who will uphold biblical principles, including the sanctity of life and the sacredness of marriage.  
Proverbs 14:34; Psalm 139:13; Matthew 19:4–6
- 9) **My Pledge to My Country**
- Pledging to **pray** fervently and faithfully for America.
  - Pledging to be registered and to **vote** in every election—local, state, and federal—supporting, where possible, candidates who uphold biblical principles.
  - Pledging to **engage** in YOUR community with God’s truth and prayerfully consider running for office.
- 10) **Graham said just imagine a local school board committed to a Christian World view.**
- (a) For those who say separation of Church and State Graham reminded everyone that our founding fathers did not promote this;
  - (b) They only wanted to ensure that the Government could not tell us how to worship by declaring a state religion such as England & France did with Catholicism or Germany did with Lutheranism.
  - (c) We were to be free to express our religious expression by choice.
- 11) **Those on the other side wants to shame you into not promoting candidates that believe in a Christian World view;**
- (a) But it is alright for anyone else to promote candidates who represent their world view.
  - (b) No God equals no moral absolute which equals anarchy and chaos where we are all just animals who can do whatever we feel like.
- 12) **How appropriate that this emphasis on prayer came at the end of our series on the Lord’s Prayer.**
- (a) This is the time when we desperately need a call to prayer.
  - (b) And as we are ending this part of our study with a look at the final part of verse 13.
  - (c) **Let us turn to our scripture reading for today in Matthew 6:13.**

B) *Sermon Prayer*

C) (The Hook)

- 1) **We began with the disciples request for Jesus to Teach them to pray:**
  - (a) I think many of our people, Christians even in church, have the same need.
  - (b) We need to learn to pray and to pray passionately.
- 2) **David Jeremiah looked in the New Testament to see if there were any examples of God doing anything in ministry that did not include prayer.**
  - (a) Know how many he found . . . ZERO!<sup>1</sup>
  - (b) Everything that God does in ministry is done through prayer.
- 3) **The Lord’s Prayer acknowledges God’s place in our life**
  - (a) . . . His Holiness
  - (b) . . . His Name
  - (c) . . . His Kingdom Come
  - (d) . . . and His will be done.
- 4) **This then brings our focus on the 6 provisions for daily needs:**

- (a) Our forgiveness for ourselves and for others;
  - (b) And for our deliverance from the temptations of the evil one.
- 5) **So, we have come full circle . . .**
- (a) Having begun with God's praise and now ending our prayer in praise acknowledging our purpose in glorifying God.
  - (b) Giving God the glory and praise He alone deserves.

**TS: The Lord's Prayer again first acknowledges . . .**

II) Body: (Key Points)

A) Key Point #1: **God's Position (For Thine is the Kingdom)**

- 1) **God owns it all.**
  - (a) He created it all, provides it all, and can at any moment take it all away.
  - (b) God is the sovereign Ruler of His Kingdom.
  - (c) And we the church are His bride, surrendering our own rival kingdoms.
- 2) **The question is; do we really believe this?**
  - (a) Do we really believe that God is big enough to defeat the devil, sin, death and deliver us to His kingdom?
  - (b) In the chaos of life; when calamity strikes and we cry out "Where are you God in all of this?"
  - (c) Are we really able to trust that God is running the show?
- 3) **How can you say, "Thine is the kingdom" if you aren't willing to give your obedience to the King?**
  - (a) While we acknowledge that we cannot fully do it by our own power;
  - (b) God has sent His Holy Spirit to help us and guide us.
  - (c) He is working to transform us into His likeness and that process begins when we become part of His kingdom by saying the words.
- 4) **Sometimes, just saying the words will give us the power to believe and go on.**
  - (a) Then in time they begin to become part of us and we truly believe them
  - (b) When you state you are going to do something; you put pressure on your whole being to complete what you have said you will do.
  - (c) By verbally acknowledging God's kingdom; you are beginning the process of surrendering to His Lordship.

**TS: This leads us to the next acknowledgment of . . .**

B) Key Point #2: **God's Power (For Thine is the Power)**

- 1) **God's power is evident throughout the Bible.**
  - (a) The Power of God in Creation
  - (b) The Power of God in Exodus
  - (c) The Power of God with Daniel and the Lion's Den
  - (d) **The Power of God with Daniel's friend's in the fiery furnace**
  - (e) The Power of God with Jonah or other prophets like Elijah or Elisha
  - (f) The Power of God with Jesus to heal, to raise people from the dead, to forgive and to save us; to feed the 5000+, to control the catch of fish or wind and storms, to walk on the water.
  - (g) The power to raise up the church in which He said the gates of hell could not even stand against it.
  - (h) God still has the power
- 2) Illustration: AN ANSWERED PRAYER

**John Maxwell writes in his book, Partners in Prayer<sup>2</sup>**; "In the summer of 1876, grasshoppers nearly destroyed the crops in Minnesota. SO in the spring of 1877, farmers were worried. They believed that the dreadful plague would once again visit them and again destroy the rich wheat crop, bringing ruin to thousands of people.

The situation was so serious that **Governor John S. Pillsbury** proclaimed **April 26** as a day of prayer and fasting. He urged every man, woman and child to ask God to prevent the terrible scourge. On that April day all schools, shops, stores and offices were closed. There was a reverent, quiet hush over all the state.

**The next day dawned bright and clear.** Temperature soared to what they ordinary were in midsummer, which was very unusual for April. Minnesotans were devastated as they discovered billions of grasshopper larvae wiggling to life. For 3 days the unusual heat persisted, and the larvae hatched. It appeared that it wouldn't be long before they started feeding and destroying the wheat crop.

**On the fourth day,** however the temperature suddenly dropped, and that night frost covered the entire state. Result - it killed every one of those creeping, crawling pests as surely as if poison or fire had been used, It went down in the history of Minnesota as the day God answered the prayers of the people."

While that is an awesome story! We need to understand, **it was NOT the first and certainly was NOT the last time that Almighty God answered the prayers of his people.**

TS: **Finally, we acknowledge . . .**

C) Key Point #3: **God's Praise (For Thine is the Glory)**

1) **Everything is for God's Glory.**

- (a) We were created for the glory of God.
- (b) **Ephesians 1:12**, "*so that we who were the first to hope in Christ [who first put our confidence in Him as our Lord and Savior] would exist to the praise of His glory.*" (AMP)

2) **To give Glory is to give great honor and praise.**

- (a) **1 Chronicles 16:24** (NKJV) tells us to: "**Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.**"
- (b) **1 Chronicles 16:28** says to ". . . **Give to the Lord glory and strength.**"
- (c) And when Jesus described His relationship to the Father He said in His longest recorded prayer, "**I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.**" **John 17:4** (NKJV)

3) **If Jesus glorified the Father by finishing the work that God gave Him to do; what does that say about us?**

- (a) It declares a central fact about the Christian life; the only way to Glorify God is by doing His will.
- (b) Jesus accomplished it by doing that which He was given to do and we must do the same.

4) **For Jesus prayed for this as found in **John 17:22-24**, "*And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: <sup>23</sup> I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*"**

5) **God has passed His glory on to us to carry the torch of His light.**

- (a) When we are in complete unity, one in Him;
- (b) The whole world can tell that we walk with God.
- (c) That not only declares His Glory to others; but it lets others know that we walk with God glorifying Him in the process.

6) **In Heaven, we are told that "the Glory of the Lord will be our light." (**Revelation 21:23**)**

- (a) God will be the source of our light.
- (b) For people will walk in darkness no more.

TS: **So, how do we sum up our study of this prayer?**

### III) Conclusion (Life Application)

#### A) **We still need to exercise our privilege to pray.**

- 1) Jesus gave us this model prayer and it is a good place to start when we don't know how to pray.
- 2) We teach our children to pray by teaching them to say, "Now I lay me down to sleep."
- 3) At some point they begin to add "and God Bless Mommy and Daddy."
- 4) We are thrilled because we know that they are learning to pray from their own being sharing with God what is in our heart, soul and mind.

#### B) **We also need to learn to find time to be still before God as seen in this Illustration: Being Still<sup>3</sup>**

- 1) **Before refrigerators, people used icehouses to preserve their food.** Icehouses had thick walls, no windows, and a tightly fitted door. In winter, when streams and lakes were frozen, large blocks of ice were cut, hauled to the icehouses, and covered with sawdust. Often the ice would last well into the summer.
- 2) **One man lost a valuable watch while working in an icehouse.** He searched diligently for it, carefully raking through the sawdust, but didn't find it. His fellow workers also looked, but their efforts, too, proved futile.
- 3) A small boy who heard about the fruitless search slipped into the icehouse during the noon hour and soon emerged with the watch.
- 4) **Amazed, the men asked him how he found it.**
  - (a) "I closed the door," the boy replied,
  - (b) "laid down in the sawdust, and kept very still. Soon I heard the watch ticking."
- 5) **Often the question is not whether God is speaking, but whether we are being still enough, and quiet enough, to hear.**

#### C) **We are called to pray:**

- 1) Prayer is the way we defeat the devil, (Luke 22:32, James 4:7)
- 2) Prayer is the way we get the lost saved (Luke 18:13)
- 3) Prayer is the way we acquire wisdom (James 1:5)
- 4) Prayer is the way we get laborers out to the mission field (Matthew 9:38)
- 5) Prayer is the way we accomplish the impossible. (Mark 11:23-24)

#### D) **The Decision America Tour Mission is also calling us to pray!**

- 1) "Because Jesus Christ is the only hope for America (1 Corinthians 3:11),
- 2) "Because we call our nation to God and pray for His forgiveness and blessing (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- 3) Franklin Graham asks, "Will you stand with us in fervent prayer for our nation?"
- 4) For James tells us that "fervent prayers of a righteous person are effective and accomplish much." (James 5:16)

### IV) Invitation: **Let Us Pray**

### V) **Bibliography**

<sup>1</sup> Prayer, the Great Adventure, David Jeremiah, Mulmomah Publishers, Inc. 1997, Page 40

<sup>2</sup> John Maxwell, Partners in Prayer; illustrations of prayer from sermoncentral.com, June 2002

<sup>3</sup> Phillip Gunter in Fresh Illustrations for Preaching & Teaching (Baker), from the editors of Leadership. October 2002