

Sermon Title: **Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be Done**

Written: July 30, 2016

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Vessel: Russ LaFlamme

Scripture Reference: **Matthew 6:10**

Thesis: **Jesus taught us to pray in the will of the Father;**

Purpose: **We will learn the significance of praying in the Father's Will in our prayers.**

Key Word: "God's Will"

Key Points: #1 God's Kingdom Come

#2 God's Will be Done

I) Introduction:

Scripture Reading is: **Matthew 6:10**

A) The Setting:

- 1) **We are continuing our study on prayer.**
 - (a) Prayer is the means that we draw close to God.
 - (b) It is the medium we use to connect and hear God speaking to us if we are listening.
- 2) **What better way than by looking at the model prayer that Jesus gave to his disciples to learn about prayer.**
 - (a) We began with our look at Our God the Father of all creation.
 - (b) We looked at where in this place called Heaven that He exists.
 - (c) And last week we looked at the Holiness of God.
- 3) **If you haven't noticed it before in the opening of this prayer the emphasis begins with a focus on God.**
 - (a) For what is prayer if there is no one to whom we can offer our prayers?
 - (b) So we begin with our Father, intimately calling upon His Name and His Holiness.
 - (c) And now we will focus on His Kingdom and His Will.
- 4) **What is the meaning of this?**
 - (a) What is the purpose?
 - (b) And why is it important in our prayers?
 - (c) How does this make our prayers more effective?
- 5) **That is what we will see in our study today; so, let us look to our scripture reading for today in Matthew 6:10.**

B) Sermon Prayer

C) (The Hook)

- 1) **Charles Colson prior to his conversion to Christianity, served as Special Counsel to President Richard Nixon from 1969 to 1973.¹**
 - (a) In 1974, he served seven months in the federal Maxwell Prison in Alabama as the first member of the Nixon administration to be incarcerated for Watergate-related charges.
 - (b) Colson became a Christian in 1973.
 - (c) His mid-life conversion to Christianity sparked a radical life change that led to the founding of his non-profit ministry Prison Fellowship and to a focus on Christian worldview teaching and training.
- 2) **In 1987 Colson published a book titled "Kingdoms in Conflict²."**
 - (a) Colson fell from one of the most powerful positions in the kingdom of our Government;
 - (b) To submit to another form of government; the Kingdom of God.
 - (c) In the jacket cover of this book Colson penned these words, "
Never before has the conflict between Church and State been so widespread or had such far reaching implications for every citizen, . . . as he issued a challenge to religious leaders as well as a warning to those who would obliterate all religious influence from society. Much of the conflict, he maintains, is the result of misunderstanding. "The problem is that humanists

fail to understand human nature and Christians fail to understand Christ's teaching about His kingdom."

- 3) **Well if that was true in 1987, it is certainly more true today.**
 - (a) For I believe that Christians are failing today to understand Christ's teaching about His Kingdom.
 - (b) What does it mean when we pray, Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be Done?
- 4) In **their book titled "Living the Lord's Prayer" by Fullam and Slosser they wrote**³ *"Surprisingly few Christians realize it is the purpose of God to establish a kingdom on earth, a kingdom that will ultimately supplant the kingdoms and nations of this world."*
 - (a) *"A kingdom that will produce righteousness, where the will of God is perfectly done."*
 - (b) *"This blindness to God's goal is unfortunate, and He would have us remedy it."*
- 5) **This is our goal this morning;**
 - (a) To be sure that everyone leaves here this morning knowing that . . .
 - (b) God's purpose is to establish His kingdom here on this earth as it is in heaven.
 - (c) And to have an understanding of what that looks like.

TS: **So let's begin with a focus first on . . .**

II) Body: (Key Points)

A) Key Point #1: **God's Kingdom Come**

- 1) **Again from the book "Living the Lord's Prayer"**⁴
 - (a) *"If we were to search out the single concept that ties all of Scripture together, it would be the concept of the kingdom."*
 - (b) *"Several themes run through God's revelation, but none is more pervasive than that."*
- 2) **While Jesus was here on earth He taught a great deal about the kingdom.**
 - (a) Jesus wanted us to have a good picture of just what this kingdom was about.
 - (b) There were two different terms used in the Bible, the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven.
- 3) **According to Unger's Bible dictionary the "Kingdom of God" is evidently a more comprehensive term than the "Kingdom of Heaven."**
 - (a) Both seem to embrace all created intelligences on earth and in heaven who are willingly subject to God and thus in fellowship with Him.
 - (b) The *"Kingdom of Heaven"* or more precisely the *"Kingdom of the Heavens"* is a term descriptive of any type of rulership God may assert on the earth at a given period.
 - (c) As a covenanted kingdom the kingdom of heaven becomes the national hope of Israel.
- 4) **So when we acknowledge a kingdom we acknowledge the rule of the King over us.**
 - (a) While God ultimately rules the heavens;
 - (b) His earthly kingdom will not be realized until the future millennial period.
- 5) **I believe if we are honest; few of us want to acknowledge God's rule over our lives here on earth.**
 - (a) In fact many of us are clinging on to this life with a grip of iron.
 - (b) Malcolm Muggeridge once said *"The only ultimate disaster that can befall us, I have come to realize, is to feel ourselves at home here on earth."*⁵
- 6) **Pastor Stephan Brown⁶ gave this illustration that will clarify:**
 - (a) *Some people when they go on vacation, get to the hotel room and they unpack everything.*
 - (b) They take it all out of the suitcase and put it into those bureaus.

- (c) **I think I did that once when I was staying in the same place for three weeks.**
- (i) But if I'm only going to be around for a week or a few days, I don't even bother to unpack. I just leave everything in the suitcase and when I need it, I just take it out.
 - (ii) I couldn't be bothered to get everything settled, because I know that very soon, I'm going to have to pack it all up again.
- (d) **Well, you may agree or disagree with my vacationing habits—that's up to you.**
- (i) However, we must have this sort of way of thinking when it comes to life.
 - (ii) We may be here 80 or 100 years, but compared with eternity, that's just a weekend trip.
 - (iii) If we spend our time focused on this life and this world, then we have wasted our life.
- (e) **Sometimes we spend our energy trying to build a comfortable or successful life here.**
- (i) Sometimes, it seems that we can so easily forget that we're just passing through, that we not only unpack our suitcase, but we try to decorate the hotel room too.
 - (ii) We want to paint the walls, put in a new carpet, refinish the furniture, hang a few pictures on the wall.
- (f) **But really "Who cares?!" Life is too short. We're just staying for a short trip and there is no time to unpack.**
- 7) **Or perhaps the story of Gary Kildall⁷ will help us put it in perspective;**
- (a) In 1973 Gary Kildall wrote the first popular operating system for personal computers, named CP/M.
 - (b) According to writer Philip Fiorini, IBM approached Kildall in 1980 about developing the operating system for IBM PCs.
 - (c) But Kildall snubbed IBM officials at a crucial meeting, according to another author, Paul Carroll.
 - (d) **The day IBM came calling, he chose to fly his new airplane.**
 - (i) The frustrated IBM executives turned instead to Bill Gates, founder of a small company named Microsoft, and his operating system named MS-DOS.
 - (ii) Fourteen years later Bill Gates was worth more than eight billion dollars.
 - (e) **Of Kildall, who has since died, author Paul Carroll says, "He was a smart guy who didn't realize how big the operating system would become".**
 - (i) In a similar way, people don't often realize how big God's kingdom will someday become.
 - (ii) God comes calling with the offer of a lifetime; and we find other things to do."
- 8) **Well if we acknowledge that God is our ruler; then shouldn't we let Him rule?**

TS: That leads us to the second point . . .

B) Key Point #2: **God's Will be Done**

- 1) **Once again from the book "Living the Lord's Prayer"⁸**
 - (a) **"Thy Kingdom Come"** is not a petition meant to stand alone.
 - (b) Jesus intended it to be linked immediately with the one that follows:
 - (c) **"Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."**
 - (d) One illuminates the other.
- 2) **To ask for God's will to be done is to ask that it be done first in our own hearts.**
 - (a) We must be first willing to submit our own will for the will of God.
 - (b) Our will is carnal and will oppose God at every turn.

- (c) Only when we surrender our will and ask God to lead can the Holy Spirit work out God's will for you in your life.
- (d) **We cannot do this on our own; we cannot will our will into God's will.**
- 3) **Illustration: A man dies and goes to heaven⁹.**
- (a) Of course, St. Peter meets him at the pearly gates and says, "*Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in.*"
- (b) "Okay," the man says, "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart."
- (c) "That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "*that's worth three points!*"
- (d) "Three points?" he says. "Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service."
- (e) "Terrific!" says St. Peter, "*that's certainly worth a point.*"
- (f) "One point? Golly. How about this: I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."
- (g) "Fantastic, that's good for two more points," he says.
- (h) "TWO POINTS!!" the man cries, "At this rate the only way I get into heaven is by the grace of God!"
- (i) "That's the point, Come on in!"
- 4) **You see God sends His Holy Spirit to help us; but we have to surrender our will.**
- (a) God will not force us to give Him control.
- (b) We have to come to the realization that we can trust God to do what is best for us . . . in all circumstances, even when we don't understand it.
- (c) Until we surrender we will continue to ask God to do OUR will over HIS will every time.
- 5) **There are dozens and dozens of books written on how to know God's will;**
- (a) But it all comes down to our willingness to surrender control of our lives over to God.
- (b) And it all begins with our prayer life.
- (c) This is the place where we surrender our will; acknowledge God for who HE is, and learn what God wants for us, what God's will is for our lives.
- 6) **We can read all the "how to" books we want; but until we surrender and seek the Lord in Prayer we are fighting a battle without hope for a victory.**
- (a) God wants that intimate relationship He longs to have with His children.
- (b) God wants quality time and the only way we are going to find peace in this life is sitting at the feet of Jesus pouring out our hearts.
- 7) **Too often, and this is true for me as well, we get in the habit of just vainly repeating our same desires.**
- (a) But God wants us to come to Him and speak from our hearts pouring out our praise, concerns, needs and thankfulness.
- (b) **Jeremiah 29:13** says, "**You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.**"
- (c) **Proverbs 8:17** in the NKJV suggests that we should seek God in the first part of our day, "**I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.**"

TS: **What are the lessons we can learn here?**

III) Conclusion (Life Application)

A) **Praying Thy Kingdom come acknowledges God's rightful rule over us.**

- 1) And who can do better than God.
- 2) Who can lead us better than the One who knows everything, sees everything, and has everything we need.

B) And if we truly want God's will in our life . . .

- 1) We need to spend quality time praying and communicating with God.
- 2) Yes, it may feel awkward at times.
- 3) But the more we commit to it; the more that we earnestly seek God; the more God's Word promises to make sure we find Him.
- 4) Just seek Him with all your heart and soul and mind.
- 5) God expects nothing less.
- 6) Remember that our prayers must start with seeking the presence of God.
- 7) Further in **Matthew 6:33** of the NKJV Jesus would say, "***But seek you first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.***"

IV) Invitation: **Let us Pray!**

V) **Bibliography**

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Colson

² Kingdoms in Conflict, Charles Colson. William Morrow and Zondervan Publishing House, 1987

³ Living the Lord's Prayer, Everett L. Fullam with Bob Slosser, Epiphany Ballantine Books, New York, 1980, p.45

⁴ Ibid

⁵ sermoncentral.com, December 2001

⁶ Stephan Brown, sermoncentral.com, August 2002

⁷ Craig Brian Larson. ed. Contemporary Illustrations For Preachers, Teachers & Writers. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1996 p. 197). January 2003

⁸ Living the Lord's Prayer, Everett L. Fullam with Bob Slosser, Epiphany Ballantine Books, New York, 1980, p.54

⁹ Christianstories.com, December 2005