

Learning to Pray with Jesus: Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done

Matthew 6:5-13, Psalm 72 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 06 March 2022

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: What is a topic that you've completely changed your mind on? How did that happen?

Worship: [Psalm 72:17-19](#) (*Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation?*)

Sermon Summary for [Matt 6:5-13](#), [Psalm 72](#) (*Read the passage aloud before reading the sermon summary.*)

When we pray “*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done*”, we are praying for a very different kind of kingship than we see or expect here on earth. Christ reigns in humility; His whole arc of lordship was downward toward death before His resurrection comes. This is what we are praying to take root and flourish here: that His will be done among us, even as it is in Heaven. Likewise, Psalm 72 is a prayer for the flourishing of God's Kingdom and a poetic application of “thy Kingdom come.” These are things we can pray for – and should pray for – to be present in our experience through Jesus' reign.

Prayers for the King's justice ([v1-4](#)) // We pray for the presence and practice of Christ's justice: to see right being done in the world to the glory of our King. These are prayers for the poor, for the children of the needy, for the oppressed to be defended and delivered, and for oppressors to be crushed. Here are prayers against warfare, tyranny, racism, violence, abuse, neglect, oppression and abandonment. Because we yearn for God to strip the world of that which is neither right nor good, and to replace those things with righteousness that brings healing to creation and honor to our Lord.

Prayers for the King's life // We pray that the life of Jesus would prosper and abound so that it would flourish in us as His people. Because our lives are truly and spiritually bound to Christ by faith and baptism. As O. Hallesby wrote, “The essence of prayer is opening up our lives to the life of the Risen Christ, asking Him to flood us with His resurrection presence and power.” As we begin to celebrate this reality, we become filled with hope because we are intended to spread and share His shalom throughout our lives. We are freed to be reckless as we share God's love. Hope infuses us, drowning out the cynicism that has a foothold in so many of our hearts.

Prayers for the King's realm ([v8-11](#)) // The True Messiah was and is after more than enlarging an earthly kingdom. Jesus wants the whole cosmos, which is rightfully His. He wants to turn those who are His enemies into His friends, His children, and His ambassadors of grace, love and beauty in the world. So, when we pray, “*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done*,” we are praying for conversion and renewal of the entire earth. We pray with hope for those who are now violently enemies of the Kingdom to become its friends and servants.

Prayers for the King's mercy // When a culture of compassion is modeled by a leader, it tends to spread as the people inside it are recipients of that compassion. Psalm 72 exalts the mercy of God's King and pleads again for Him to have a long reign, so His compassion could take root in ancient Israel. Jesus is this everlasting King, and we can pray that over time, His mercy and compassion become ours. We pray this so that He might deliver the needy through us, so the weak are sustained and encouraged through us, so those who need it find help through us. We need His reversal of values – loving the poor and moving toward them, stepping into the pain of others rather than running from it, weeping and hoping in their sufferings with them. And the cross is the way this happens; it becomes the ground of our salvation and the motivation and pattern for our lives.

Discussion Questions (You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)

Prayers for Kingdom Justice

- Reread [Psalm 72:1-4](#). What is the relationship between God's Kingdom being advanced here on earth and praying for God's justice?
 - What Kingdom priorities are we praying for?
- How do we pray for justice and righteousness to grow and flourish, according to Psalm 72?
 - What specific ways might God want you to show justice and righteousness as a citizen of the Kingdom in the world?

Prayers for Kingdom Life

- Have you seen the life of Jesus "abound" in the life of someone you know? What did it look like?
 - How would they describe this? How do you think this came to be for them?
- How is prayer "opening up our lives to the life of Jesus"?
 - Describe a time when prayer led you to a greater hope and understanding of Jesus as King.

Prayers for Kingdom Expansion

- Have you prayed for others to become Christians? How have you seen these prayers answered?
 - How is this type of praying a prayer for God's Kingdom to come?
- Is there anything about your story of coming to Christ that can be an encouragement to others who might have difficulty praying for enemies of the Kingdom to recognize Jesus as their savior and King?
 - Name three people that you can be praying for to enter God's Kingdom through faith and repentance. Consider inviting them to attend the next Investigating Christianity Class after Easter.

Prayers for Kingdom Mercy

- How do you explain the relationship between praying for God's justice and praying for His mercy?
 - Are mercy and justice separate? In conflict? Mutually exclusive? Bound together?
- What does it look like to have Christ's mercy flow through our lives?
 - Name some specific ways you can be a conduit of His mercy. Commit those ways to prayer.

Prayer

Pray for the situation in Ukraine. Pray for peace. Pray for Christ's mercies and intervention. For this week's Prayer Guide for personal or group use, click [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Prayer & Gratitude

Incorporate "Prayer Walking" into your prayers for God's Kingdom. Go alone or in pairs. Start with prayers of praise, remembering that Jesus is the sovereign Lord. Be aware of His presence and try to see the city through His eyes. Confess fears, weaknesses, lack of concern. Ask God to give you insight into His ways and to appreciate the beauty and glory of the city. Ask for opportunities to love and serve the people of the community. Pray as you walk, eyes open, stopping at landmarks. Pray for:

- Social, political, economic needs
- Critical crossroads and intersections
- Cultural influencers, schools, businesses, churches etc.
- People, neighbors, residents, workers, passerby, major people groups
- Peace and safety: protection against crime, conflict, unrest
- Open doors and hearts to the gospel and workers to share

Talk with God and each other about what you saw and heard. What surprised you? What encouraged you? What made you uncomfortable? For a handy bookmark on Prayer Walking from prayercurrent.com click [HERE](#).