

PPA Kingdom Prayer *Becoming a People of Prayer*
8/17/08

Every specific word in the Scriptures is inspired by God to edify our souls
So when Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He deliberately chose the very words He used

And He told them to pray ‘Your kingdom come’
How simple it is to let our minds and hearts anchor on the notion that we are to pray for God’s kingdom

We have to relinquish our own feeble, tottering thrones
We have to give up our control, and ask the King of kings to bring His dominion
Have you arrived to the point where you are ready to completely yield to God?
Your way, Oh Lord
Your will, Oh God
Not mine, but Yours

Pray

“Your kingdom come” is the second petition of the Lord’s teaching on prayer
He is teaching us how to pray, how to approach God and how to petition God
First, we should ask that He would cause His name to be ‘hallowed’, to be revered in all the earth, specially through the way we live
That we would set God above and better than anyone or anything else
That nothing would be more important to us than God and that our lives would reflect His character, nature and personality

This morning we come to the second petition and literally translated says, ‘*Come, kingdom of God*’

In asking for the kingdom of God to come, we are asking for **three things**:

PP1-We are asking that God would turn sinners to His grace and mercy

The phrase *Kingdom of heaven*, or *Kingdom of God*, appears 49 times in Matthew, 16 times in Mark and 38 times in Luke
Matthew hardly ever spoke of the kingdom of God because a devout Jew was hesitant to ever take the name of God upon his/her lips
Matthew was the most Jewish of the gospels
But what is God’s kingdom?
If you asked 10 different theologians that question, you would receive 10 different answers
It is never precisely defined in the Scriptures
In fact, Jesus preferred to give pictures and analogies of the kingdom of heaven
It is like a farmer, a seed, a fishnet, a treasure, a king inviting people to a marriage feast, a pearl merchant, a secret
But we do not see a nice crisp concise definition
So, how can we pray for what we do not understand?
The word kingdom is made up of a noun and a suffix

The suffix 'dom' means dominion

Kingdom then, is most simply the dominion of a king

William Barclay defines it as "*A society upon earth in which God's will is as perfectly done as it is in heaven.*"

PP In short, the kingdom of heaven is the reign of God

When Jesus said in Mark 1:15 that *'the kingdom of God is at hand'*, He was teaching that *the kingship, the reign, the power of God within the world is about to begin through Jesus*
The kingdom of heaven, or the kingdom of God, was the heart of Christ's message

PP *"but He said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."* **Luke 4:43**

Jesus came to establish a new society on earth made up of men and women fully dedicated to do His will

To enter God's kingdom is to repent of your sins

PP *"From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"* **Matthew 4:17**

To pray 'Your kingdom come' is to ask God to turn sinners to His mercy and that they would trust in Him and obey His will

It is a missional prayer of highest importance!

I am praying, God, bring my son Andrew into Your kingdom

You may be praying God, bring my neighbor, my friend, my mother or father, into Your kingdom

Right now, in China, God, bring your kingdom to thousands and millions who have not yet turned to you in repentance and trust

I read an interview this past week of the son of an influential Hamas leader who left Islam and turned to Christianity

His story is all over the Internet

Lord, use this young man to bring sinners into Your kingdom, Your reign

It is a prayer for salvation for the lost

'God, bring Your kingdom to the lost, the weary, the hopeless, and the needy'

PP 2-We are asking that God would focus our hearts and transform us

God wants sons and daughters fully committed to His will

So to pray 'Your kingdom come' is to ask two things:

PP a) God, give me a greater understanding of kingdom living

We belong to the kingdom of God in Christ, and the kingdom of God lives in us

Therefore, we belong to God the King, our wills must reflect this

We must know that we are utterly dependent on our King

This is why we are to pray for God's kingdom to come, because we cannot make this happen on our own

PP *"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts."* **Zechariah 4:6**

Do you remember the power of the *Ruach*, the breath of the Spirit in Ezekiel 37?
Do you remember the deepening river of water coming from the throne of God in Ezekiel 45?

Do you remember the rivers of living water that will flow from the heart in John 7?
This is the dynamic power of God to bring His kingdom to the hearts of people and
revive them and give them the hope of glory

Jesus taught how to live in this kingdom as co-workers of God

The kingdom will not come, apart from our cooperation in proclaiming it

The thought struck me this past week as I returned from the Adirondack mission trip, that
kingdom living frees me to live for a purpose

Friends, aren't you encouraged to see all those in our church that are living for God's
kingdom?

Three major mission trips this summer

Those who faithfully and tirelessly serve the needy each and every Monday, holidays
included

Those who teach and lead you in Sunday School, and Bible studies during the week

Those leading small groups who earnestly desire to help each other live for Christ

The ones ministering to the elderly in two different nursing homes

Our ladies who are faithfully teaching the women in prison about the love of Jesus Christ

There are many of you who are counseling hurting people with the Word of God

Several others who are getting their training in Biblical counseling

Not to mention the many who are giving hours each week in leading us to the throne of
God in worship

Deacons and Elders who bear responsibility and care for this body

Each of these have latched onto a purpose and that purpose is found in the kingdom of
God

There is another world, an eternal one that is worth living for

The more we understand this, the greater we live with kingdom purpose, and the more
freedom we have to give the best of all we have for our King

Come, bring Your kingdom is asking for another transformation in our hearts

PP b) God, give me a greater desire to see you reign

To pray 'Your kingdom come' is to ask God to come and rule in our hearts

That no person, no power, no position and no possession would rule our hearts

That God would be the absolute and uncontested sovereign God in our lives

That we would yield every area of our lives to Him: the physical and spiritual areas; the
mental and emotional areas; the personal and social areas; the vocational and recreational

We pray this because we know things should be and can be better than this

Let your kingdom come to the east end of the Lehigh Valley!

Bring your kingdom to my neighborhood. My school! My business!

Use me to do this Lord, give me a heart motivating desire for this

Bring your kingdom through me while I am your ambassador to the world

Let me tell everyone that the King is coming and they need to respond to the invitation

Let me know how to describe that kingdom and may they see kingdom living in me

May my life demonstrate unwavering peace, unconquerable joy, redeemed mouths, pure
and holy hands and humble, loving hearts
Let people see this Lord in my life, may Your kingdom reign in me
How can this be so?
This is a prayer of re-calibrating the people of God's minds and hearts
Your kingdom come is a shift off of the fleeting pleasures that this world offers and a
growing, yearning desire for the eternal rest that awaits us
It is a missional prayer
Lord, let me live in this life with more passion, more effort, more grace, more love

God, let the kingdom of God reign in our hearts in greater ways

**PP 3-We are asking that God would culminate history by bringing back our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ**

Have you ever been in a race and your body is in agony, your lungs sharp with pain
trying to inhale more oxygen to your starving lungs?
Mentally, you begin to falter and question whether you can endure, when all of a sudden
you get that glimpse of the finish line
Digging down deeper, somehow you tap into your reserves and kick it up another notch

'Your kingdom come' keeps the finish line in sight and gives us the strength to dig
deeper, following harder after Christ
Rest is coming, now is the time to live hard for Christ, running the race with abandon

To pray '**Your kingdom come**' is to ask God to send His Son Jesus Christ to culminate
His redemptive plan
The word '**come**' signals an arrival or culmination of sorts
Right now we live between the inauguration of the Kingdom of God and the
consummation of it
Every time I read the newspaper I can't help but see that we live in a fallen world
Those who pray for God's kingdom to come are praying toward the day when He will set
everything right again
We are asking Him to hasten the approach of that day
When Jesus Christ comes again, He will judge the world, and set up His eternal kingdom
To pray 'Your kingdom come' is to pour out your heart to God asking Him to send Jesus
Christ back to us

***PP "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward
you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of
the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the
heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on
it will be exposed." 2 Peter 3:9-10***

Can you not sense here the longing that Jesus has for us when He teaches us to pray
'**Your kingdom come**'?

*Pray my brothers and sisters, pray and ask My Father to send me back to you, so I can
bring you home*

Have you ever noticed how the Bible ends in Revelation 22? ***“Come, Lord Jesus!”***
Praying this prayer is in a sense asking God to send Jesus back and bring down the
curtain on human history as we have known it

Closing

What a petition this is
“God, Your kingdom come”
Bring the lost to end of themselves so they would repent and turn to Jesus
Give us, Oh King, a greater understanding of kingdom living and a greater desire for you
to reign in our hearts
God, send Your Son back to us and usher in the fullness of Your kingdom