

Matthew 6:5-15

And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

- 11 Give us this day our daily bread,
- 12 and forgive us our debts,
- as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
- 14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

The first three petitions are about:
God's name, God's kingdom, God's will.
The last three are about:
our food, our forgiveness, our holiness.

The first three call our attention to God's greatness.
And the last three call attention to

our needs.

Kingdom 'Now' & 'Not yet'

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:2

Romans 14:17

for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

In Matthew, the kingdom is spoken of as something imminent. Both John and Jesus declare that "the kingdom of God is at hand" - means "has come near." Jesus speaks of the kingdom as an already present reality: "But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you" (12:28).

Yet, Jesus teaches His disciples to pray that the kingdom of God will come in a way that it has not yet come (6:10).

The "Mystery" of the Kingdom

So the kingdom has come according to Matthew 12:28 and Luke 17:21; and the coming of the kingdom is still future according to Luke 19:11–12 and many other texts.

This is puzzling!

It threw the Pharisees into confusion. It took John the Baptist off guard (Matthew 11:2–6). It caused one crowd to want to throw Jesus off a cliff (Luke 4:29) and another want to make him king (John 6:15). It baffled Pilate when Jesus was on trial (John 18:36–37). It left the apostles confused and hopeless between Good Friday and Easter (Luke 24:21).

This is the mystery (the secret) of the kingdom—the arrival of the kingdom in a small way in advance of the final consummation when all the enemies would be defeated and all sin and satanic power and sickness and suffering would be gone forever.

The mystery is:

"fulfillment without consummation."

Many kingdom blessings can be experienced today; many are reserved for the consummation and the coming of Jesus.

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

"To you it has been given to know the secrets [mysteries] of the kingdom of the heaven."

"But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear and did not hear it."

Matthew 13:11; 16-17

Two Applications

A Warning: beware of insisting that God demonstrate dimensions of the kingdom now which he has reserved for the consummation. The kingdom now is limited in its scope and effects. And beware of assuming that all who are swept into the power of God's kingdom are the children of the kingdom. The power of the kingdom gathers many (Matthew 7:22) into its net that will be cast out in the end because they loved healing and not holiness; they loved power and not purity; they loved wonders and not the will of God.

2nd Application

Encouragement: the kingdom really has arrived. The King has come. The King has dealt with sin once for all in the sacrifice of himself. The King sits at the Father's right hand and reigns now until all his enemies are under his feet. The King's righteousness is now already ours by faith. The King's Spirit is now already dwelling in us. The King's holiness is now already being produced in us. The King's joy and peace have now already been given to us. The King's victory over Satan is now already ours as we use the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. The King's power to witness is now already available to us. And the King's gifts—the gifts of his Spirit—are now already available for ministry.

God's will can refer to:

- His Providential Purpose = Sovereignty of God
- His Perfect Precepts = Teaching / Commands
- His Personal Plan for a community of people
- His Personal Plan for an individuals life.

God knows all that will take place, has commanded us to obey His commands, and leads and guides both individuals and communities of believers toward actions that bring glory to [Hallow] His name.

Nothing is more clear & unshakeable than that the purpose of the universe is for the hallowing [the glorifying] of God's name.

- His kingdom comes for THAT.
- His will is done for THAT.
- We have bread-sustained life for THAT.
- Our sins are forgiven for THAT.
- Temptation is escaped for THAT.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

Ephesians 1:11

I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Job 42:2

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Acts 16:9-10

When we pray for God's kingdom to come and for his will to be done on earth as it is in heaven,

This begins with us.

We must ask ourselves,

- "Am I hallowing God's name?"
- "Am I doing God's will?"

As Christians, we claim to have already submitted to the lordship of Christ. We are already citizens of His kingdom, and He is already our King. But are we faithful subjects? Or are we rebellious? If we are to pray in the way our Lord instructed, we must be those who live in the way our Lord instructed. WE MUST...

REMEMBER

WHO WE ARE. YOU ARE MORE THAN YOU HAVE BECOME

Father, cause your great and holy name to be honored and reverenced and esteemed and glorified above all things everywhere in the world (including my heart).

And cause you glorious, sovereign, kingly rule to hold sway without obstruction everywhere in the world (including my heart).

And cause your all-wise, all-good, all-just, all-holy will to be done all over this world the way the angels do it perfectly and joyfully in heaven—and make it happen in me.

