

# The Lord's Prayer

## *Thy Kingdom Come*

Part 5 – November 2, 2008

Too often, when we go to God in prayer, we're anxious to tell Him our requests and desires. But in this model of the perfect prayer (that Jesus has given us), it's clear that whenever we go to God, we should first:

1. Greet him with an intimate parental nickname: "Our Father"
2. Remember His fierce and humbling majesty: "Who art in Heaven"
3. And take time to worship His holiness: "Hallowed be Thy name"

And the greeting is done. So now, onto the requests! Not so fast!

Seek ye first the **kingdom of God**, and **his righteousness**; and all these things shall be added unto you. - *Matthew 6:33 NIV*



And those are the first two *requests* of the Lord's Prayer! "Thy kingdom come" and "Thy will be done"

We'll just be looking at the first one today. And the point begins with this: In our prayers, His kingdom must come first.

Our prayer lives are bound to flounder and suffer if we ignore the pattern, principles, and priorities Jesus makes so clear.



He's God and I'm not! So, whenever we pray, we must *never* treat the Lord as *the servant*.

My prayers must reflect the fact that *He's* the royal King and *I'm* the loyal subject.

In the greeting of the Lord's Prayer, Jesus helps us to put God in His rightful place. Now, Jesus is simply putting us in ours!



I must bow to *Thy* kingdom over *my* kingdom.

Prayer was not intended as a means of letting God in on *my* plans, but of bowing my knee and asking Him to fulfill *His* plans in and through me.



Okay, so what exactly is “Thy kingdom”, and how does it “come”? Before we answer that, let’s remember that Jesus was the Kingdom in person. So, to pray “Thy kingdom come”, is to ask for all that Jesus represents to advance and conquer and find its completion.

Ultimately it’s a longing for His return, when He will establish His kingdom on earth and rule over His creation.

Until then, His kingdom extends over the hearts of everyone who enthrones Him as their King, and submits to His rule and reign.



Remember the parable of “The Wheat and the Weeds”? That’s the one where the chaff went through the thrasher! In the story, an enemy sows weeds among seeds in a wheat field. The workers ask if they should try to pull the weeds, but the owner tells them to let both grow together until the harvest, when they’ll be collected and separated.

The good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. (*Mat 13:38*)

That’s us – present day followers growing in the world. But then Jesus ends the parable by saying that ...

The harvest is the end of the age ... [when] the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. - *Matthew 13:39, 43 NIV*

The kingdom is a future promise *and* a present reality.

But we’re going to focus on the present reality part, because this is what Jesus was referring to when He proclaimed:

The time has come ... The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” - *Mark 1:15 NIV*

To pray for His kingdom to come is to pray for His gospel to advance and to spread to those who are not yet in His kingdom.



We pray, “Thy kingdom come” whenever we lift up our unsaved and unchurched family and friends and classmates and coworkers. We pray, “Thy kingdom come” whenever we lift up our missions and our missionaries (in Mexico and the Philippines).

With these three little words, Jesus knocks the “selfish” out of our prayers by aiming our first requests at others. “Thy kingdom come” is a prayer of intercession.



Praying for His Kingdom to COME must be translated into action. Otherwise, It's like walking past your un-mown lawn and saying, "Thy work be DONE!"

- We don't command it, we commit ourselves to it

We are called not just to pray, but to participate in the expanding of His kingdom, in a very specific way:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who **reconciled** us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**: that God was **reconciling** the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of **reconciliation**. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be **reconciled** to God. - 2 Cor. 5:17-20 NIV

To be "reconciled" means to reestablish a relationship. A divorced couple might *reconcile* and remarry. A feuding family might *reconcile* and reunite.

Once we've been reconciled with God (through Jesus) we're given the "ministry of reconciliation" and the "message of reconciliation" to help bring others into relationship with the Father.

Did you notice the official designation you've been given? "Christ's ambassadors"



This is kingdom terminology. An ambassador is:

- A diplomatic official (of the highest rank).
- An authorized messenger (or representative).



We've been called and commissioned as diplomatic messengers for the kingdom of God.

- A disciple is an ambassador of reconciliation.

An ambassador builds bridges of understanding and defuses anger and animosity when it exists between kingdoms. An ambassador learns to appreciate the people, the values, and the customs of the foreign land they reside in.

An ambassador is someone who relates to two kingdoms. They represent their own kingdom while relating to the land they reside in. And as believers, we've become a people of two lands.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ ... - *Philippians 3:20 NAS*

We are currently citizens of God’s kingdom, even while waiting for the future completion and consummation of that kingdom.

So, the question isn’t: “Are you a kingdom ambassador?” The question is: “*What* type of kingdom ambassador are you?” There are basically three types:

### 1. The Anonymous Ambassador



They hide in the embassy and spend all their spare time with other embassy “officials”. Their silence hinders reconciliation.

They hide because they're uncomfortable around people who don't share their customs, language, and values.

### 2. The Obnoxious Ambassador



They think nothing of barging into private affairs without an invitation.

- Their rudeness hinders reconciliation.

They’re insensitive to timing, often loud and intimidating, and inconsiderate to the culture they’ve been placed in.

### 1. The Effective Ambassador



They gladly coexist as fellow countrymen, without ever betraying their own kingdom. Their compassion helps reconciliation. Wherever they go, to the store, to work, or on vacation, they bring a kingdom perspective and priority along with them. They see everything through the lens of “Thy kingdom”.

We’re given many effect-ambassador instructions like these:

Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. - *Colossians 4:5-6 NKJ*

Our speech should be: “Always gracious” but “seasoned with salt”.

We’re called to be gracious thought-provokers who are intent on ushering the hurting into the realm of grace (where the damage done to us by sin is mended and repaired).

That is how “Thy kingdom” comes!