**Your Kingdom Come**

Matthew 6:19-34

**King Arthur** is generally recognized as the greatest King of Britain - known for his justice and the peace in the realm of Camelot. Sadly, most scholars don’t think Arthur was a real person, but the idea of the round table - where all knights are equal and there is no hierarchy of importance - has established an ideal of leadership that has been admired if not applied for centuries.

Imagine Camelot and the nature of medieval rule. If you lived in Camelot, as a citizen of the realm, you were ***guaranteed certain rights and protections***. Invaders might come from outside, or bandits might threaten you from inside the borders, but Arthur’s knights, led by Sir Lancelot, were there to keep the peace and maintain justice - protecting the weak and upholding the Law.

Within the boundaries of Camelot - **within the KINGDOM of KING ARTHUR** - people could count on justice, peace, and prosperity. They were under the protection of the good King. Arthur’s power protected them. His goodness, fairness and justice gave them confidence that he would apply His power for the good of his people. And, it never hurts to have a semi-omniscient wizard as an advisor, even if Merlin was a little quirky and would periodically vanish.

Now imagine **you are a foreign invader** - coming into Camelot to pillage and plunder. You attack an outlying village, capture some people, carry off some goods. But then you hear thundering hooves behind you. The knights of Camelot, led by the famous Sir Lancelot, are quickly gaining on your raiding party, weighed down as you are by all of your plunder.

As the knights in their shining armor **surround your little band** you only have two options, right? ***You can fight*** - and almost certainly die. Or ***you can surrender*** - and hopefully have the opportunity to beg King Arthur for mercy.

When we pray **the Lord’s prayer** it is a constant reminder that there is One True King - you could even call Him ***the Once and Future King*** - though Jesus is more accurately ***the Always and Forever King***. Today we will study the phrase, “Your Kingdom Come.” Of course, that brings us directly before the King for whose kingdom we pray.

Here is what we have learned so far in the school of prayer with Jesus:

**Prayer is:**

* A miraculous **Relationship** with “Our Father in heaven”
* Worshipful **Communion** with God - “Hallowed be your Name”

Prayer begins with the simple approach to ***knowing and loving God as our Father*** - without losing the wonder that the Lord of heaven is available to hear our prayers! And prayer immediately recognizes that God is holy and we are not. We ***acknowledge that His Name, His nature is righteous***, perfect and glorious. And we request in this prayer that more and more people would come to see and celebrate the holiness of His Name. “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”

Today we move on to the third phrase and add another critical piece in this model of prayer:

**Prayer is:**

* A miraculous **Relationship** with “Our Father in heaven”
* Worshipful **Communion** with God - “Hallowed be your Name”
* Total **Surrender** to the Lord Jesus - “Your kingdom come”

We only dare to approach God as our heavenly Father **because we belong to Jesus by faith**. When we pray, as we should, ***“in Jesus’ Name”*** we are claiming His authority over us, and with the authority of Jesus comes the rights of Jesus. We approach God the Father as Jesus does - with perfect freedom, with total access, with great joy.

So that is the focus for us today as we study the words, ***“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”*** What does it mean for us, regularly as we pray, to surrender ourselves to Jesus as King? What does it MEAN to pray - to truly pray - “YOUR KINGDOM COME”? We’ll see ***three STEPS to total surrender***. And obviously you don’t take these three steps and then say, “Phew. That was tough but now I’m done.” We never finish surrendering to Jesus. That’s why He built this phrase into the prayer we should regularly pray. We never graduate from the need to surrender more. Even if we dare to sing, “I surrender all,” today - we find tomorrow that there is more we still need to surrender.

**Total Surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ:**

1. Repent of your **Rebellion** against Jesus

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matthew 3:2

***The first word Jesus preached*** in His gospel message was REPENT. This built on the ministry of John the Baptist which was all about calling the people of Israel to repent. ***To repent is to turn away from*** - to make a 180 degree turn. It is to admit you were going the wrong way and you are now confessing your sins and adjusting your life to line back up with God’s Law.

Jesus commanded all people to repent - and the reason He gave was the KINGDOM. It wasn’t super clear what that meant at first, but with hindsight and the rest of the New Testament we know what He meant!

1. Repent of your **Rebellion** against Jesus

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matthew 3:2

The Kingdom for Jesus was the beginning of His personal reign on earth in the **Hearts** and lives of all who would trust in and follow Him.

The Jews expected ***an earthly King and a physical kingdom***. Jesus will reign in that full and physical sense when He returns - that’s what the Millennium is about. But in His first Advent, Jesus came to establish a SPIRITUAL Kingdom - and His throne was not set up in Jerusalem but in the hearts of His followers. You and I are part of the current expression of the Kingdom of heaven that arrived in Jesus and was inaugurated at His resurrection.

Usually when a King is publicly crowned they begin to rule immediately. The inauguration of Jesus was **the resurrection** - that was how God the Father placed His seal of glorious approval upon God the Son. That was the ultimate vindication of Jesus, it was the Father’s way of ***publicly recognizing the Kingship of Jesus*** - His eternal glory, divine nature, worthy sacrifice and absolute authority.

***How do we know that Jesus is the One True King?*** Because He lives. The resurrection was the inauguration of Jesus. Before that, figuratively speaking, He did not wear a crown. ***After the resurrection, Jesus was wearing a crown of victory***, just not a literal one. The kids who play Fortnite this season will understand how that looks when you get a Victory Royale, the next round you actually have a shiny crown on your character that all the other players in that round can see - and it shows that you won - that you defeated everyone in the previous round. How about that? Fortnite illustrates the gospel for us. (What’s Fortnite? Oh, it’s a measure of time - two weeks. But the way Pastor Darin said it, I bet it has something to do with Star Wars…)

The point is that **Jesus is Lord**. He is the One True King. And He calls everyone to repent because ***everyone who sins breaks His Law and is therefore in rebellion against Him***.

**Total Surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ:**

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“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matthew 3:2

All of us are guilty before King Jesus. All of us fall short of His glorious standard. And every single person will one day give an account to King Jesus. The King of Kings will be the final Judge. At that moment, when you stand before Jesus, ***will you be at PEACE with Him or will you remain in your rebellion?***

Just like our pillaging invader, captured by the Knights of the Round Table, we must surrender before the unstoppable power of King Jesus. His Kingdom has arrived. His victory has been won. All the world is hearing of His glory and reign. The only question is whether people will surrender to Him in time.

The Lord’s prayer calls us to that surrender.

**Total Surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ:**

1. Repent of your **Rebellion** against Jesus

“Your kingdom come. Your will be done.” Matthew 6:10

* **Selfishness** and **Idolatry**

Selfishness says “MY Kingdom come.” And idolatry says, “ANOTHER kingdom come” apart from that of King Jesus. We must all repent of both selfishness and idolatry.

We all continually fall into both traps. While we should pray and live only for the Kingdom rule of Jesus, instead we all default to our own kingdom rule.

The selfish prayer of my sinful heart is ***“MY KINGDOM come. My will be done.”***

* This is **why marriage is difficult** - because two selfish sinners are fiercely committed to ruling over one another.
* This is **why work is difficult** - because selfish sinners do business with other selfish sinners and KINGDOMS COLLIDE. For MY Kingdom to grow, your kingdom must suffer. It’s the nature of the competitive marketplace and of advancement within a company. For me to be promoted someone else has to be passed over. MY Kingdom come.
* This is why **relationships are difficult** - in families and among friends - because the human will is involved. We all want what we want and even if you are a win/win kind of person, sometimes someone has to lose and most of us prefer that the loser not be us.
* This is why **church is difficult**. Yes, even in the spiritual kingdom of Jesus within the church, conflict is not only possible, it is inevitable because we all have an agenda, we all have plans and priorities - and sometimes those desires and plans collide. In the name of HIS KINGDOM, we bicker over our own desires and preferences for worship, for facility, for groups, for outreach - for everything.

I’m not saying any of this from a position of superior righteousness. ***I’m probably the most guilty one here*** since I am a leader and a planner. I have plans not only for Oakwood but for the whole city of Tampa Bay and trust me, I get annoyed when other pastors don’t get on board. Of course, it’s all for the kingdom of Jesus - but the lines can get blurry when pastors have their own ideas of what that kingdom should look like in a given region or ministry.

This is why we must consistently pray, “YOUR KINGDOM COME.” That phrase leads us to repent of our selfish pursuit of building our own individual kingdoms. And it leads us to **repent of our idolatry** that seeks to build up the kingdoms of this world. Instead of working for King Jesus with all of our hearts,

* we work for money,
* we work for our businesses,
* we work for our clubs and hobbies,
* we work for our pleasures and vacations,
* We work for our political agendas
* We work for 1,000 different kings whose names are not Jesus.

***All of that is idolatry if we put it ahead of the Lord Jesus Christ.*** Anything - even a good thing - can become a GOD THING if we love it more than Jesus, if we trust it more that Jesus or if we serve it more than Jesus.

When we pray “Your Kingdom Come” it is **a prayer of repentance**. We repent for seeking to advance our own kingdoms - we repent for our selfishness. And we also repent of our idolatry - how we have loved and served other kings instead of the One True King. Here is how Jesus expressed it in one of his parables:

1. Repent of your **Rebellion** against Jesus

“The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” Matthew 13:45-46

It’s hard to imagine a PEARL so valuable you would sell everything to buy it. We would probably think more highly of ***a huge and flawless diamond***. If a diamond expert spent his whole life searching for the perfect diamond, this is what he would do when he found it - obviously assuming he was already a billionaire. How much would you have to prize something - how much would you have to treasure something, to sell EVERYTHING so you could have that thing?

That’s what Jesus says the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN is like. It is the most precious of all treasures - and it is ***worth exchanging EVERYTHING for it***! Is that how you feel about Jesus? Have you turned away from all other loves, all other treasures and found in Him the greatest treasure of all? “YOUR KINGDOM COME” calls us to that first step of total surrender to the Lord that begins with repentance. Here is the second step.

**Total Surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ:**

1. Commit to Jesus as The **King** - “Your will be done”
	* To Reign **in** you - directing every part of life

This phrase is a great example of **Hebrew parallelism** - the most distinctive feature of Hebrew poetry. We find it all over in the Psalms and Proverbs and elsewhere in the Old Testament. Phrases are expressed in dual form - stated one way and then the same idea or a very similar one stated right after. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” or Psalm 23 - “He makes me lie down in green pastures,” that’s the first phrase, and the second is like it, “He leads me beside quiet waters.” Two similar statements in tandem that mutually reinforce and clarify one another.

“Your kingdom come, your will be done,” is a beautiful parallelism. The best way to understand the prayer “your kingdom come” is with the follow up phrase that illuminates it - “your will be done.” **How does God’s kingdom come on earth?** ***More and more of us commit to DOING HIS WILL***. Wherever God’s will is done, His kingdom reaches more fully.

We surrender to Jesus in this prayer by first turning away from of our selfishness and idolatry and then immediately turning to Jesus as The True King. We acknowledge that He is the Only True King and we bow down before Him, pledging ourselves to Him alone. There are two sides to this commitment: that Jesus would reign IN us and reign THROUGH us.

**Think of your body as a MAP**. ***Where does Jesus reign?*** Over what parts of your body does Jesus rule as the true king?

* Start with your head - does Jesus rule over your thoughts and plans?
* What about your eyes - does Jesus govern what you look at
* and your ears - what you listen to?
* Move to your mouth - does Jesus reign over the words you say?
* Move down to your heart - does Jesus hold sovereign rule over what you love? Is He really the One Thing you treasure above all?
* What about your hands - is Jesus the King of what you touch, and the work you do?
* And we’ll skip down to your feet - does Jesus rule over where you go?

On the map of your life, where does Jesus reign and ***where is there REBELLION?*** Are there parts of your life where it truly is under the sovereign control of the Lord? There you will find peace and love and joy. But in those areas where your flesh is in control, or where the devil holds some influence, or where other idols have taken root, you will feel tension, frustration, conviction.

When we pray “YOUR WILL BE DONE” ***we bring more of ourselves under the sovereign rule of King Jesus***. We say to Him, “Take my lips today and make them yours. Take my hands today and use them. Take my feet and lead me today. Take my thoughts and fill them with yourself.”

And you can see quickly how the prayer “Reign IN ME” immediately flows into its counterpart: “REIGN THROUGH ME.”

**Total Surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ:**

1. Commit to Jesus as The **King** - “Your will be done”
	* To Reign **through** you - loving and reaching people for Him

We casually call ourselves “the body of Christ.” That is what the church is according to the New Testament. Jesus is our head and all of us together are His body. If that were truly the reality, the entire global church would operate in perfect harmony to accomplish the will of Jesus:

* Sacrificial love would immediately become evident all over.
* Those with extra food would share with those without food.
* Those living in peace would pray desperately for those in persecution.
* Believers with money would happily share it with those who were poor.
* All resources, homes, cars, possessions would be joyfully shared.
* Poverty would be greatly reduced if not eliminated.
* Above all, spiritual poverty would be quickly addressed. Those places where the gospel has never been heard would begin to feel the hands of Jesus extended toward them in peace, they would see the feet of Jesus coming to them, as he walked so boldly into Samaria, they would hear the words of Jesus as He proclaimed the mercy and grace of His kingdom to them. Yes, they would beat upon the back of Jesus, and they would very often drive nails through his hands and feet.
* But the human body of Jesus - for His entire life - lived in total surrender to the Father’s will, saying, “Not my will, but yours be done.”

That is our prayer as we learn what it means to surrender to King Jesus. “YOUR KINGDOM come. YOUR WILL be done.” Here is a parable Jesus taught about this:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field.It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” Matthew 13:31-32

When you first put your faith in Jesus it seems like a small thing. But that simple, ***childlike commitment immediately begins to grow***, and like yeast in dough, it spreads. You cannot contain the Lordship of Jesus. He will not be compartmentalized and placed in a corner of your life. He will rule or He will not come in. The tiny mustard seed of faith by which you were saved grows and grows until the rule and reign of Jesus extends to every part of your life. This is a lifelong process of daily surrender.

If the kingdom of Christ is not bearing fruit in and through your life, you would be right to wonder if you are really a Christian. Jesus clearly taught that **the way to identify His followers was by their FRUIT**. If you do not see in your life increasing evidence of ***love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control***, then you do not know Jesus - for those are the qualities His Spirit MUST PRODUCE in thoes who belong to Jesus by faith. Fruit does not grow quickly - but it does grow steadily - and it does bear fruit in season.

Oh, how we need to grow in prayer, commitment and obedience to the soveriegn will of the One we call King. That is the third step of surrender.

**Total Surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ:**

1. **Serve** Jesus as your King - “on earth as it is in heaven”
	* **Know** His will - all you are and have is a gift from God
	* **Do** His will - use all you are and have for Jesus and His kingdom

It is one thing to acknowledge Jesus as the One True King - the demons do that. It is something else to ***surrender to Him as YOUR KING***. The demons do not do that. Again, there are two sides to serving Jesus: knowing His will and DOING IT.

This brings us back to **the wise and foolish builders**. The wise builder is not the person who simply KNOWS the teachings of Jesus. The wise builder is the one who hears them and DOES THEM. The foolish builder hears the word of Jesus - but then walks away unchanged. He does not put those words into practice. He knows God’s will - but he does not do it.

We pray, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, **on earth as it is in heaven**.” How is God’s will done in heaven? The angels are given a command and they immediately carry it out. They serve the Lord joyfully, immediately, and completely.

To serve King Jesus as the angels do, we must first know that all we are and all we have is a gift from Him. And then we must use all we are and all we have for His kingdom, His purposes. One more parable as we close.

“For [the kingdom] will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away…” Matthew 25:14-15

A talent was a large sum of money - around a year’s wages. So, five talents would be somewhere between a quarter and **half million dollars today**. The servants who were given these large sums of money very clearly knew that ***the money was not theirs*** - it was temporarily entrusted to them to manage on behalf of their master. The one given five talents invested them and earned five more - doubling his money. Similarly, the one given two talents used them and also doubled them.

But the man given one talent chose to bury it - out of fear to risk it and possibly lose it. The master came back and called all three servants to account. The first two who managed the money well were commended. But the third servant who did nothing was severely reprimanded.

***How are we using the time, talent and treasure the Lord has TEMPORARILY entrusted to us?*** Are we using it for HIS KINGDOM? Are we devoting it to the accomplishment of HIS WILL?

As we learn to really pray according to the model Jesus gave us, we will repent of our rebellion against Jesus; we will commit to Him as the One True King, and we will surrender every part of our lives to Him, devoting all we are and all we have in service to Christ, our King.

For those who serve the Lord faithfully, this is the response we can expect:

“And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’” Matthew 25:20-21

Let’s pray.