

Text: Matthew 6:10<sup>1</sup> (Luke 11:2-4)  
Series: Talking With Our Father  
Title: Part 3 -- Talking with Our Father about His Kingdom  
Date: March 15, 2009  
Place: First Baptist Church, Olds, AB

During the weeks leading up to Easter we've set ourselves the task of learning how to pray Jesus' way and we're taking our instruction from the model prayer he gave to his disciples. The "Lord's Prayer" or the "Our Father" is a simple prayer but like many things in the Bible that appear to be simple, the prayer contains profound teaching in a simple form. On one hand, Jesus' instruction on prayer is intended to get us praying without spending a lot of time learning deep and technical knowledge. He wants to get us talking with "our Father." But on the other hand, deeper layers of teaching are revealed as you spend time reflecting on Jesus' instruction.

As we turn to God's Word for instruction this morning let's ask Jesus to teach us to pray just as we did when we began two weeks ago. Let's pray together...

**"Lord, teach us to pray." Luke 11:1**

And let's read and pray together Jesus' model prayer. This morning, I'm taking it from Luke's Gospel. It's a more condensed version than the one we find in Matthew but it still contains the same major themes. Let's pray together...

**"Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation." Luke 11:2-4**

Believers down through the centuries have found that the prayer opens up deep aspects of prayer that lead us into greater, richer conversations with our Father. We've been working with an outline of the prayer's major themes and I've used Matthew's version as the foundation for the outline and here it is:

***Adoration...***

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

***Mission...***

"Your kingdom come,"

***Submission...***

"your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

***Petition...***

"Give us this day our daily bread,"

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**Confession...**

“and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

**Protection...**

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Last week we noticed that the first half of the Lord’s Prayer invites us to begin our conversation with our Father by focusing on him: “hallowed be *your* name,” “*your* kingdom come,” “*your* will be done.” We spent some time last Sunday learning how to adore and worship God in prayer as we reflected on Jesus’ instruction about hallowing the name of our Father. This week we’re going to think together about what it means to pray “your kingdom come, your will be done.”

In the outline I’ve given you you’ll see that I refer to these two prayers as “Mission” and “Submission.” You might have noticed that Luke only records the first of these two themes, “your kingdom come.” Bible scholars suggest that “your will be done” is really included within the prayer, “your kingdom come.” I would agree with that and I hope you’ll see how I understand that “Mission” and “Submission” really blend together.

You’ll also notice that Luke records “lead us not into temptation” but he doesn’t record, “deliver us from evil.” The same thing can be said of this difference. Being delivered from evil or from the evil one is really included in the prayer that we not be led into temptation. Evil and the evil one are two of our greatest sources of temptation we face.

I say these things so that you don’t get the idea that Matthew and Luke are presenting competing versions of the Lord’s Prayer. Matthew’s version is amplified but it agrees in essence with Luke’s version. We can be confident that whether we come to Matthew chapter 6 or Luke chapter 11, we’re getting Jesus’ teaching on how we are to pray.

In God’s timing of things it’s providential that we’re talking about praying for mission today.

**This morning** we’re commissioning a team of men who are traveling to deliver vehicles and goods that are being donated to several mission organizations working in Tijuana, Mexico. They’ll be leaving this coming Saturday and returning the following week. We need to pray for them. You’ll also notice in your bulletin that Josh & Mandy Kary left for a ten day short-term mission with the Word of Life Bible Institute in Jamaica **on Friday of this week**. They are there right now. We need to pray for them.

**Next Sunday**, we’re commissioning a team of our high school students from Koinonia Christian School who are also going to Mexico but who are working with a different mission in a different community. They are going to be working to

assist local missionaries in Hermosillo, Mexico with a variety of local programs for about ten days.

**The following Sunday**, we're commissioning the Taubers and the Schafers for a short-term mission in Russia. The Taubers will be teaching at the Russia Bible School in Rostov and the Schafers will be spending time in ministry with our sister church in Millerevo. **For three weeks in a row**, mission will be front and centre in our worship services.

**And more than that, this summer**, Joel Tompkins will be spending seven weeks in Papua New Guinea with a team from Millar College of the Bible. We need to pray for him and his team. And praying for these short-term missions reminds us of **the ongoing need** to pray for our entire mission family. In the bulletin today you'll notice a specific need for the Ritchies who are here in Olds and not in Angola because of the need to deal with Peter's mother's health. In the "Praying for Our World" insert there are several requests for prayer from our denominational mission, Canadian Baptist Ministries. On the flip side of that insert you'll see our weekly prayer request for the "Persecuted Church."

### **"Your kingdom come,...." Matthew 6:10**

I believe, is Jesus' invitation to us to pray for...

#### **Mission**

both here at home and around the world!

I say that because there are at least three ways in which the word "kingdom" is used in NT.

**First of all**, we need to understand that ...

**The coming of "God's kingdom" is the establishment of His rule in the lives of people as they confess that "Jesus is Lord"**

The Kingdom of God is not a chunk of turf. It doesn't show up on Google Earth. The "Kingdom of God" is not like the "Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" or the "United Kingdom." Jesus told us that his kingdom was "not of this world" (John 18:36). What he meant was that it wasn't a political kingdom like the Roman Empire.

Jesus was approached one day by a very zealous, religiously-minded young man who asked him...

**"Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Mark 10:17**

Jesus told him to sell everything he had and follow him. We're told that the man went away sad and watching him walk away, Jesus said to his disciples...

**“How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! ... It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” Mark 10:23, 25**

The disciples were troubled by what Jesus said and asked him...

**“Then who can be saved?” Mark 10:26**

Notice the language carefully with me!

The young man wanted to know about **eternal life** – Jesus talked to him about **the Kingdom of God**.

Jesus talked about **the Kingdom of God** – the disciples heard him talk about **being saved**.

You see, at rock bottom, entering the kingdom of God is being saved, receiving eternal life, coming into relationship with and coming under the rule of the King of kings. The Apostle Paul tells us that the moment we confessed with our mouth that “Jesus is Lord” and believed in our heart that God raised him from the dead (Romans 10:9), God...

**“delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:13-14**

Our declaration that “Jesus is Lord” is a declaration of allegiance to our King, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It signifies our new citizenship. It is a statement of our membership in the kingdom of God.

***“Your kingdom come” is our prayer that people will acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Lord and enter the Kingdom of the beloved Son***

I want us to notice the rest of Jesus' conversation with his disciples about eternal life and the kingdom. The disciples had asked, “Then who can be saved?” (Mark 10:26) and Jesus' answered...

**“With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.” Mark 10:27**

Why do we need to pray for the salvation of those who are reached with the Gospel by our mission teams and missionaries? Because unless God moves in their lives, nothing will happen! Unless we call on God to bring his new Kingdom

life into the spiritually dead souls of people, no strategy, no program, no method of evangelism will bring one person into the Kingdom! Unless God moves them to declare “Jesus is Lord” they will remain in and die in their sins!

We need to pray for those in Tijuana & Hermosillo, Mexico, in Millerevo and Rostov, Russia, in Jamaica, in Papua New Guinea, in Angola. We need to pray for those here in Olds that are reached by the Gospel of the Kingdom. We need to pray that God’s kingdom will come in their lives!

Have you entered the kingdom? Are you a citizen of the kingdom of God? Have you declared your allegiance to Jesus the Lord? Have you repented of your sin and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ?

If you have, then pray for people you know who aren’t yet citizens of the Kingdom. Pray that they will come to surrender their lives to the leadership of the King of kings. Mission isn’t just about people on the other side of the world – it’s about people on the other side of the fence; on the other side of the classroom; on the other side of the shop floor; on the other side of the street; on the other side of the soccer field and hockey rink.

In proclaiming the Good News that Jesus is Lord and King, we obviously have to go and tell. We have to tell people here at home and around the world about Jesus. We are commanded to go and make disciples. But just as important as going, we must pray!

What Jesus teaches us about prayer, the kingdom and missions in Matthew chapter 9 is truly astounding. Matthew tells us that...

**“Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” Matthew 9:35-36**

Jesus saw the desperate spiritual need of the people. He knew they needed a shepherd. He *is* the Good Shepherd. So what did he do? Shepherd them? Feed them? Heal them? Preach to them? No.

**“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’” Matthew 9:37**

The first word out of his mouth is a command to pray hard – to pray earnestly, to pray with deep devotion and commitment. James Hudson Taylor, the founder of the China Inland Mission which today is called the Overseas Missionary Fellowship, was a man of incredible vision and kingdom commitment. He said

that mission is extended primarily by prayer and not by any other means. Taylor took that principle to the point of never asking for money but of simply praying that people would be moved by the Lord to give and to join him to reach the Chinese people with the Gospel. The motto of SIM, one of the largest faith missions in the world, is “**by prayer.**” Missionaries all over the world, in many different agencies and societies, are united in their commitment to the priority of prayer in the work of the Gospel.

We can blanket the world with all the missionaries we can send!

We can develop the coolest, most “culturally-relevant” programs of evangelism we can devise!

We can fill the airwaves with 24-hour a day Christian radio & TV & flood the internet with Gospel messages

We can knock on every door on every street in every nation of the world

***But if we want to see people come to faith in Jesus, we must pray!***

In your bulletins this morning you have been given a powerful instrument to change this world – it’s a simple guide for praying for missions and missionaries: “Ways to pray for missionaries.” Take it home. Put in your Bible. Devote yourself to praying “Your kingdom come.”

Let me challenge you to consider something. Can you commit yourself to praying “your kingdom come” for 15 minutes one day a week? Among prayer for your family and friends and the other things we bring to the Lord, let me encourage you to pray regularly for our missions family, our short-term missions or for the missions you support.

*“Father...we pray your kingdom come!”*

There’s a **second sense** in which “kingdom” is used in the New Testament. Secondly,

**The coming of “God’s kingdom” is the submission to his rule throughout the world**

This is where “mission” and “submission” fold into each other. Jesus teaches us to pray...

**“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”**

**Matthew 6:10**

I think there are two ways to look at submission to God. **First** of all...

***When we pray “Your will be done” we’re praying that believers will live as citizens of the Kingdom, demonstrating in every area of their lives that Jesus is Lord.***

This, as Bible teacher Eric Alexander says, is the essence of all prayer. It cures us of trying to use prayer as a way of bending God to our will. Prayer is not about bending God to our will but it is about tuning our minds to His will. If we’re going to learn how to pray Jesus’ way we need to adopt Jesus’ attitude of submission to the will of His Father. Jesus said to his disciples...

**“My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”  
John 4:34**

How do we know what God’s will is? God has revealed his will for the earth in his Word, the Bible. The Holy Spirit of God takes the truths and principles of this book and guides us as we seek to apply them to life situations as they arise.

In praying “Your will be done on earth” we need to start at home. Charles Haddon Spurgeon was a Baptist preacher of the 19<sup>th</sup> century who prayed this prayer regularly:

**“Father, may your will be done, and done in me.”**

Paul wrote to the believers in the city of Colosse...

**“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body ... Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, ... And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:15-17**

Every area of our lives as believers in the Lord Jesus is to reflect his rule and reign in us. Whatever we do, whatever we say is to give honor to name we bear – the name of Jesus. When we pray this prayer we need to ask ourselves:

**1) *Am I living in submission to God’s revealed will in the Bible?***

Are there things I’m in rebellion against, things God has said in His Word that I’m just not willing to accept? Let’s allow the Holy Spirit to search our heart and mind and speak to us about areas we need to surrender to his authority.

Jesus modeled this submission for us on the night he prayed before he went to the cross. He asked His Father if there might be some other way but there wasn’t. The Father’s will was clear and although he asked for some other way to be found, Jesus said,

**“nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” Matthew 26:39**

Settle it – “Your will be done, and done in me.” Secondly, we need to ask ourselves...

## ***2) Am I living in submission to God’s sovereign will for my life?***

What about submission to God’s will in those areas that aren’t part of God’s revealed will in the Bible? James teaches us about submitting our plans to God’s purposes and plans. He wrote...

**“Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit’— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.’” James 4:13-15**

Perhaps life and the plans you laid haven’t turned out the way you hoped. Are you bitter and angry with God? Settle it – “Your will be done, and done in me.”

Once, we’ve dealt with home base then we can turn your attention out to the world.

### **Secondly...**

***When we pray “Your will be done” we’re praying that the kingdoms of this world will be ruled by the will of the King of kings.***

The Bible tells us that God is fully able to move the hearts of people who do not acknowledge him as King of kings to accomplish his will. God moved in the heart of a pagan king to allow his people to return to the Land of Israel and to provide them with the resources they needed to rebuild the temple. When they got back to Jerusalem and had rebuilt the temple, the people celebrated...

**“for the Lord had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, so that he aided them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.” Ezra 6:22**

The writer of Proverbs tells us that...

**“The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.” Proverbs 21:1**

The prophet Isaiah declares...

**“O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth.” Isaiah 37:16**

When we pray, “Your will be done on earth” we are facing squarely the reality that God’s revealed will isn’t always done on earth but we’re also confessing that we worship the King of kings who is able to reach into the world and accomplish his will through anyone He chooses and in any way He chooses!

Are there places where God’s will is not being done? Of course there are! It wasn’t God’s revealed will that 10 people were murdered by a gunman in Alabama this week or that 3 Canadian soldiers were murdered by terrorists using IEDs in Afghanistan. It wasn’t God’s moral will that greed-driven lenders and investors made poorly financial decisions that have driven the world economy into crisis. It wasn’t God’s revealed will that the president of Sudan wage genocidal war on his own non-Muslim citizens. Whether it’s the sinful rebellion against God’s will by individuals or by corporations or by governments, it’s the fact that God’s revealed and moral will is not being obeyed on earth that serves for us as a call to intercession.

Last week, I mentioned the prayer work being done by the “Moms Who Care” group here on Wednesday mornings. Across the country there are over 1,500 groups of moms who meet weekly for prayer, praying for the students and teachers in our communities. The “Moms Who Care” groups are basically praying, “your will be done” in our schools. These groups across the country have reported some wonderful answers to prayer in the schools. For example, in Morris, MB, the phys ed instructor gave his life to Christ after the group had been praying for him. In Thunder Bay, ON, occult books were removed from the school library after the Moms group prayed. In Edmonton, a vice-principal began attending church after the Moms group had been praying for him. When we pray that God’s will be done on earth, things happen.

Imagine what might happen in our world if we had groups called, “Electors Who Care” praying for elected officials; or “Citizens Who Care” praying for peace officers; or “Patients Who Care” praying for health care workers; or “Consumers Who Care” praying for the businesses of our community; or “Investors Who Care” praying for the financial community.

Why does Jesus follow “your will be done on earth” with “as it is in heaven”? I love what J.I. Packer wrote about this. He suggests that Jesus wants “to arouse hope” in our praying. “The chaos of earth,” he wrote, “mocks the petition [your will be done on earth]; by reminding us...that God has already established his will perfectly in heaven, Jesus stirs us to hope that on earth we may yet see great things. ‘Is anything too hard for the Lord?’ (Genesis 18:14)” (Praying the Lord’s Prayer, p. 69)

*“Father...we pray, may your kingdom come, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven!”*

I think there’s another reason why Jesus directs our eyes to the perfect expression of God’s will in heaven. There’s a **third way** in which “kingdom” is used in the New Testament. We experience His reign and rule in our hearts and lives now but our hope, our expectation, our confidence is that there is a day coming known only to the Father when we will see the King of kings breaking through the clouds to reign on earth.

**The coming of “God’s kingdom” is the hope of the glorious return of Jesus Christ to reign and to rule over the kingdoms of the earth in perfect justice and righteousness**

When Jesus spoke about the events that would precede his coming, he said...

**“when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.” Luke 21:31**

***When we pray “Your kingdom come,” we’re praying for the return of the King to finally and completely establish His kingdom and to bring peace to this peace-less planet!***

Did you know that the Bible ends with a prayer? The last book of the Bible, The Book of Revelation, is the Apostle John’s record of a heavenly vision that God gave him. As the vision draws to a close, Jesus speaks to John about his return. His last words to John are: **“Surely I am coming soon.” (Rev 20:20)** To which John responds:

**“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” Revelation 22:20**

“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

As we close this morning we’re going to pray for the Men for Mexico team and I would like to ask them to join me here on the stage. I’m also going to be praying for Josh Kary and Mandy Kary who are in Jamaica with Word of Life Bible Institute. As we pray, I’m going to ask you stand with me.

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

***Heavenly Father, I pray your kingdom come and your will be done in the words and deeds of the Men for Mexico Mission team. Father, I ask that...***

- ***You will use the vehicles and the materials the men are taking to the missions in Tijuana to help those missionaries as they seek to win***

*people to faith in the Lord Jesus. We dedicate these four trucks to the work of the gospel of the kingdom.*

- *You will protect them in their journey and give them favour with the customs officers at the border.*
- *You will provide all the finances that are needed to complete this mission.*
- *You will use the work of this team to build your Kingdom.*

*Our Father, I pray your kingdom come and your will be done in the words and deeds of the Word of Life team in Jamaica. Father, I ask that...*

- *You will use Josh and Mandy to share your love with the children they will meet in orphanages they visit.*
- *You will protect and keep them in health.*
- *You will use the preaching of the Gospel to bring people to confess "Jesus is Lord."*
- *You will use the work of this team to build your Kingdom.*

*Father, may your kingdom come, you will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.*

- **Invitation to Worship Team & Prayer Ministry Team:** invite the team to come forward now as we get ready to sing.
- **Song:** Shine, Jesus, Shine
- **Benediction:**

**Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col 3:15-17**

**Go in peace and serve the Lord, in the power of the Spirit, to the glory of the Father. Amen.**