

Matthew 6:9-10— Jesus' Kingdom Prayer: Part 1

I. Context

- a. The Lord's Prayer is a guide or pattern, not a formula
- b. It teaches us how to pray, not necessarily what to pray, therefore to pray the Lord's Prayer as liturgy is fine, but not its primary point. It's not prayer unless one's hearts and minds are engaged?
- c. Reveals the priorities of prayer; the first three petitions are all about (the preeminence of) God, only after that does Jesus get to personal needs
- d. Stems from Jesus telling followers NOT to pray like pagans or hypocrites

II. Our Father in heaven: the One whom we address

- a. A sovereign power—paraphrase: my dad can do anything!
 - i. Protector and Provider
- b. Personal—denotes a personal covenant-relationship

III. Hallowed be your name

- a. Let your name be made holy (paraphrase: may we treat you with the highest honor)
- b. *Your name*: signifies person's character
- c. In this statement, we are praying that God is revered (that He is given the respect that He rightfully deserves); we show reverence to God through our praise
- d. A good prayer begins with praising God for who He is (consider *Psalms* 92, songs we sing)

IV. Your Kingdom Come

- a. Expresses the hope of God's people throughout history.
- b. Expressed in the ancient Christian prayer: Come, O Lord! (*marana tha*)
- c. Christ-centered prayer begins not with our needs, but with our hope that comes in God's ultimate plan (not about us fitting God into our plans, but our desiring to fit into God's great plan)
- d. Dispels bad theology that our final destination is away from earth to heaven; rather God will bring heaven to earth when Christ returns (c.f. *Revelation* 21:2; *Isa.* 52:7-10)
- e. We long for our King's rule to bring justice to this corrupt world

V. Your will be done

- a. Prayer asking God to help us live as He intends (not our own selfish plans)
 - i. Make us Kingdom-bearers; make us a community of healed healers
 - ii. Help me to live a life of holiness, faithfulness, and generosity
- b. Paraphrase: Help us get on board with the great plans you have for this world, not just live in our own selfish pursuits!
- c. On earth as it is in heaven: we live under God's rule here on earth

VI. So what?

- a. God meets you where you are at, but how can you grow in your prayer life to having it more focused on God and seeking God's kingdom and not just your own needs?