

The Rock: 11-06-2022**A year with the Master**

Title: Your Kingdom come-Your will be done

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-10, 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 (Black bible Pg. 761 ESV)

Theme:

Jesus, in telling us to pray in this way, is establishing the fact that God has a kingdom and that He has a way He wants things done. How -the same on Earth as in Heaven.

Introduction:

As we look at this line in the Lord's prayer of your kingdom come, your will be done, I'd like to ask: What does that look like? How do we know what that is? How do we do that, if we are even capable of doing so.

Some like to think we can bring about the kingdom by getting the right people in power. Others think we can forcibly implement the Kingdom of God by making Christianity the "State religion."

But the haunting thought about His Kingdom being brought about is found in John's gospel when Jesus is being

challenged by the kingdom of this world.
Specifically, Rome.

Pilate, ever the bully and tyrant (as all worldly powers are) looks at Jesus after he had been "tried" in a sham of a trial, illegally flogged and then brought back before Him:

-John 19:9-11 (ESV)

"He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above."

"Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your Kingdom come..."

How? Well, we see here in John, that Jesus is taken away, crucified and put in a borrowed tomb. The Servant of all, the King of Glory has brought about God's Kingdom and power. How? Through His death. Why? Because it was God's will, all in order that we be reconciled back to God the Father.

The Story:

That, then, begs the question: What is the objective of the Christian in this world? How are we to operate as we pray: "Your Kingdom come; your will be done."

We all have our points of view, our opinions on this, but what matters is God's opinion, His point of view and our assignment. So, we go to His word to find His assignment for us and His point of view on what this is to look like.

It seems clear that the objective of the Christian, because God, in Jesus, has reconciled the world back to Himself, is to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, our King:

-2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (ESV)

"All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."

Is at the very least, this: We are to be His representatives in this world. Being salt, light, being ministers of reconciliation.

In other words, this prayer, and this line specifically, are in part, our marching orders.

Remember what I said in our first week with this prayer, that all of our prayers to God at some point will work themselves out in our obedience to do something.

Well, here it is and 2 Corinthians 5 is very helpful for us as we unpack this concept. Because, Paul talks here about the heavenly dwelling, and how we can bring that about in a very real sense—here on Earth as in heaven.

However, it looks a particular way. Living the Kingdom way happens because God works in and through us by His Holy Spirit:

-2 Corinthians 5:5 (ESV)

“He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.”

Living as salt and light will become increasingly difficult, which is one of the reasons you need to be in your bibles every day understanding God’s plan and purposes.

Holding to “Your will be done on earth as in Heaven”, will be more and more what the world rejects, rather than accepts.

In the midst of that, we must learn to stand with servant hearts before the Pilates of this world and say -God’s ways

are different, His laws and thoughts are best, and we will stand against anything which conflicts with that.

Just remember, with that comes suffering, not worldly power. Jesus went to the cross because He understood that God's will being done in His life, meant He would die, that we could live.

So, knowing His word, knowing how to pray and live is what will sustain us. Most especially in the hard times of life. Praying in this way becomes dangerous because we aren't asking for our "best life now".

Rather, we are asking that His will be done first, and ours second. So, we must be prepared to be treated like Jesus was. That means persecution, suffering, and rejection.

Encouraging, isn't it? Not anything we are used to here in America. But that is Biblical truth. As things get worse, we are called to shine brighter, and darkness will get angrier.

What we want, the self, becomes secondary, not unimportant and irrelevant, just not our prime objective.

I remember being told many years ago by Pastor Roland, that wherever God puts me

in ministry, I'll be happy. Even if it's not where I want.

At that time, it didn't make much sense. Yet, in seeking His will for my life, my happiness came from my being obedient to that.

So, what I wanted became what He wanted. His will be done on earth as in Heaven, brought me contentment and happiness, not conflict.

Too often we think God's will is found only in the things we desire and which make us happy. That is actually our will, hyper-spiritualized. Using the God card as a way to get what we want.

When we are told to pray this way: Your will be done... by implication we are also saying: Not mine. I am yours Lord, do in and through me what you wish, to accomplish your plans and purposes.

Well, what are His plans and purposes? Primarily, it is in sharing the gospel, telling people about Jesus as you go about your daily living and working in the place where He has set you down.

It is understanding that while we are here, we are always looking for the "there" of heaven. Jesus, in one of His prayers which John recorded, prays in this way:

-John 6:38-40 (ESV)

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

- 1- That I will lose none of those you gave me.
 - a. In other words, your salvation is assured and guaranteed, IN CHRIST
 - b. That means you cannot lose it. One cannot lose what was a free gift given to you.
 - c. That creation itself is redeemed from the curse of sin, because of the work of Christ.
- 2- That everyone who looks to the Son (Jesus) and believes should have eternal life and be raised on the last day.

Jesus's objective was to redeem the world, to reconcile the world and save the world, by being obedient to do the Father's will.

Within this, we now have work to do, and that is why 2 Corinthians 5 is so helpful. What is His will? That we point people to Jesus; "Seeking out the lost."

We do so in order that they have a chance to hear the gospel and be redeemed, reconciled and saved> Thus; "making life-long followers of Jesus."

Once we come to Christ, we are sent out. So, what does that look like? Let's see what Paul says here in the Bible:

-2 Corinthians 5:11-12 (ESV)

"Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart."

Understanding the "fear of the Lord". This is not a fear that punishment is coming. Rather, this is a reverence for God because of who He is and because of what He has done in Christ.

In other words: "Hallowed be your name." Because we hallow your name (fear the Lord -as Paul says) we function in a particular way.

We do not brag. We do not boast and toot our own horns. We want, instead, to do His will here on the Earth. Why?

-2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (ESV)

"For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised."

N.T. Wright makes this comment:

"The Messiah's love gives me new energy, it urges me on, it impels me forward. That's what all love does: it constrains (controls-compels) us, forces us to do things. If you want to be free of all constrains (and control), learn to live without love."

-NTE: Pg. 62

That last line looks and sounds just like our world. Free of all constraint and control, and as a result, absent all genuine love.

For us, however, here is our participation in His will. We pray about and for these things not just "knowing" about them, but rather with a holy

expectation that our Father in Heaven has something for us to do!

Because Jesus died for me, in accordance with the Scriptures, I will live for Him in accordance with His will.

Our lives become about doing His will on Earth as in Heaven, and His will is the Divine Reconciliation through His son.

This is why we need to look at people differently:

-2 Corinthians 5:16 (ESV)

"From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer."

Heavenly eyes versus earthly eyes (the flesh), our old way of being and doing has to go. In order to be all that God has called us to be where we have been placed, we have to set aside our way of thinking and being.

Verses 17-18 are so important and so powerful:

-2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (ESV)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled

us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation..."

If you are in Christ, you are born again and brand new. Not of the flesh, but of the spirit. All of the old junk is gone (spiritually anyway) and the new has come.

Now, we need to remember what we learned about this from our studies in Philippians, the working out of our salvation.

-Philippians 2:12-13 (ESV)

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

This too, is a part of His will being done. So, in Christ, once again we:

Have been saved from sin's penalty

Will be saved from sin's presence

However, we are being saved from and fighting against, every day, sin's presence in our lives.

That takes a lifetime. We will fail and fall along the way, but that is not the

point. We are sinners saved by grace, and debtors to mercy alone. So, we are to always be looking for progress, never perfection.

In Christ, we now have the ability and authority to cast off the old junk and grow forward in the new.

Looking again at verse 18, and then also 19-20:

-2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (ESV)

"All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

Have you been? Do you know Jesus in this way? He died for you to save you, redeem you and reconcile you. If you have not, come to Christ today, do not harden your heart -He loves you.

Not only have we been reconciled (kept secure), In Christ, God's will is; that we are now ambassadors on His behalf in this world.

Serving at an outpost, in the capacity of a representative of Heaven here on earth, telling people about our country and our King.

You will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. He gives us this ministry of reconciliation. To tell the world that Jesus has taken upon Himself the sin of the world; that He has defeated death, and is calling the lost back to Himself.

Sounds a bit like that Earth quake moment we saw in Isaiah 6, doesn't it? Once Isaiah was cleansed and focused on God and His holiness the question is asked:

-Isaiah 6:8 (ESV)

"And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

This is "Your will be done on earth as in Heaven" At its core we are to tell people about Jesus and what He has done. (The Bible is not multiple books with a scattered story. It is multiple books with one story, one author, one objective. His name is Jesus -flesh this out a bit)

-2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

It also means living life itself in such a way that shows we believe the message we share. The message of reconciliation and transformation.

It isn't about being an evangelist on some street corner. Although if you are called to that, preach away.

It is to live a life which shines out into that darkness of this world with the truth that you are a follower of Jesus.

This too is His will. That you be the best and most productive citizen you can be right where He sets you down. For that too is God's will being done here on earth as in Heaven.

Two verses and I am done. Paul, to the Thessalonian church and Peter to the church throughout the Roman empire:

-1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 (ESV)

"Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and

to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one."

-1 Peter 3:13-17 (ESV)

"Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil."

Your will be done, here on Earth, as in Heaven.

(pray)

