

Prayer – God’s Kingdom

Matthew 6:9-10

Good morning, my name is John and I’m glad you’re here this morning. If you’re visiting today, I want to express my appreciate for your presence this morning. We’re always glad to have people visiting from all over the world here at EFC. If you’re watching online from somewhere around the world, thank you for connecting to our services today.

We’re in a sermon series called: “Prayer – A Relational Conversation with God.” The first Sunday of the series went studied *Philippians 4* which says:

⁶ Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

The next Sunday we looked at the believer’s war room. A private place where you go to fight your battles and pray. This past week several of you came to me and told me about the private places where you have gone or where you go to pray alone and meet God to pray. That has been a great encouragement to me to hear. If you have a special place where you meet God, please take time to tell me, either by text, message or by whatever means, but it is a blessing to hear your stories!

Last week we looked at the first part of the Lord’s prayer in Matthew 6. We learned that the God of the universe, the creator of heaven and earth wants to have a personal, intimate relationship with you. We learned that the many deities around the world and throughout world history have been and are distant and have no desire to get to know you personally. They demand unquestionable worship with no expectation of reciprocal love and affection for us. However, the creator God, Elohim, desires a

personal relationship and He invites us to communicate with Him through prayer.

We also learned last week that God shows us that intimacy by telling us to call him “Father-Daddy.” He lives in heaven and is not bound by the limitations of time and space like we are. He is “hallowed” or one of a kind. He is in a category by Himself! And that we are to honor His name. We looked at three different names of God. Names that reflect and tell us about His person and character.

The first name that we looked at was Elohim – the creator God. He created all the universe from nothing. That is important for us to know because when we pray, he doesn’t always answer our prayers by ways that we can explain to the contrary. There are many ways we can’t explain how it happens. Yet, the creator God, Elohim, shows us His power when answering our prayers.

The second name that we looked at was the name YHWH – Yahweh or Jehovah. It is God’s relational name. It is written in our English bibles L-O-R-D. God told Moses that His name was YHWH – I Am Who I Am. Not, I am who you want me to be but I Am Who I Am.

The last name that we talked about last week – and I’ll reference it today as we look at our sermon for today – is Adonai. Adonai means boss, administrator, supervisor, patron, master, the one who is responsible for me. Normally the name for God Adonai is spelled in our English bibles: L-o-r-d.

Now, let’s look at today’s text. We’re looking at the Lord’s prayer which is found on the Sermon on the Mount. The text for today is *Matthew 6:9-10*. The bible says:

⁹ Pray then like this:

***“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.^[a]
10 Your kingdom come,
your will be done,^[b]
on earth as it is in heaven.***

We will look at the first three worlds of verse 10. ***Your kingdom come.*** Let's remember what it doesn't say – My kingdom come. It's not about me. Life is not about me, my, or mine. It's about the King – Jesus Christ! The word kingdom is mentioned 162 times in the New Testament. It is the Greek Word – Basileia. It means “authority or rule.” In the NT, the phrase is used: Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of heaven. It refers to the spiritual realm over which God reigns as king. God is in heaven on His throne ruling over the affairs of His creation throughout the universe and the earth.

To understand the kingdom and kingdom rules, we must first understand this. To enter into God's kingdom, we must be born again. The bible tells us in ***John 3:3, “Jesus answered him (Nicodemus), “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*** Nicodemus was a religious man. He was a member of the Sanhedrin or what was known as the Jewish Supreme Court. He was a devote man. Yet, Jesus told him that he cannot see the kingdom of God unless he was born again. That concept perplexed Nicodemus like it would all of us. Jesus wanted him to know that there was nothing that could do for him to be saved. Entering the kingdom did not depend on him.

The same is true for us. There is nothing we can do to earn our way into God's kingdom. We cannot buy our way into heaven. We cannot do enough good works to earn God's favor. The bible says that ***we all have fallen short of God's glory.*** In John 14, which talks about God's house, the place where he rules the universe, tells us that there is only one way into God's kingdom. ***John 14:6 says, “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through***

me.” We are saved through Jesus Christ and only through Him can we be saved.

When we are born again, we can enter God’s kingdom. And when we enter God’s kingdom, we then enter God’s rule or God’s authority. We are “under new management!” Before we were saved, we lived under another kingdom or authority. It is an opposing kingdom to God’s kingdom. In that kingdom, we were ruled by the world, the flesh, and the devil. That kingdom leads to destruction, disillusionments, and death.

The bible tells us in *2 Corinthians 5:17*, “***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold, the new has come.***” The problem with many of us is that we want to bring the old rules, the old ways of our life and bring them into the new kingdom with us, and that always causes conflict. The reason is because there is a new king, a new person that is responsible for us that wants to rule and direct our lives.

Now let’s return to our text. Matthew 6:10 says, “Your kingdom.” Let’s continue with that thought for just a moment more. Theologians recognize that there are two thoughts that are connected to this verse.

The first thought is the future kingdom that Jesus Christ will have on this earth. That kingdom has not come yet. In the Old Testament, God promised in *Genesis 3:15* that God would send a Satan conqueror – Messiah to come and redeem us from our sin. He also promised in *Genesis 49:10* that a descendant of Abraham, the Messiah, would also be king. “***The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the rulers staff from beneath his feet, until tribute comes to him, and to him shall be the obedience of all the peoples.***” Later, God promised David these words in *2 Samuel 7:16*, “***And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.***” The promise that Messiah would one day rule and have his throne was given.

In the New Testament, Jesus was born. The angels announced His birth to the shepherds. An angel told Mary that she would give birth to the Messiah, the one whom they had waited so long. The prophets had foretold his coming. John the Baptist pronounced, “Behold, the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world.” People were excited. They were waiting for the Messiah to save them, not only from their sin, but also from the oppression of the Roman Empire.

On Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and people threw palm leaves on the road thinking that he was to overthrow the Roman government and set up his kingdom. However, later that week, he died on a Roman cross. He didn’t set up his kingdom at that time. He died, he was buried, but he rose again from the dead the third day. He ascended into heaven with the promise that one day He will come again and establish His throne here on earth. That kingdom has not happened yet. That is still to come. One day Jesus will come and rule physically from Jerusalem in Israel and rule the whole earth as found in ***Revelation 19***. That is still yet to come.

Jesus had said in ***John 18:36***, “***My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But my kingdom is from another place.***” He will one day rule on earth. But His authority is from heaven. It is from a place without the limits of time and space. It is from there that He rules and reigns at the present. And that’s what we need in our lives at this moment.

We have problems, we have difficulties, we have needs in our lives that we need heaven to come down and assist us. Jesus, in the model prayer that he gives his disciples, tells them to pray, “your kingdom come.” The way that we have kingdom authority in our lives when we pray is through a word that one of us like. It is the word – surrender. It is when lift our hands to God and say, “God, you are my authority, you are the one who wants to rule my life, please take charge of me. Whatever you want, wherever you lead, however you desire, that is what I am asking you.” When you and I pray and surrender completely to God, asking for

God's kingdom, or authority to come into your life, then God, who is our father, will hear and answer our prayers.

The bible tells us **Matthew 6:33**, ***“But seek first His kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”***

There are usually three ways in which we know we are surrendered to God's kingdom or authority in our lives. They are manifested in the way we live our lives in these three areas of our lives: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

First our time. Have you surrendered your authority of your time? One of the ways we show that we have surrendered our time is by spending time with God in prayer. Another is by getting up and spending time in God's house to worship Him with other believers. We get up early to go to Bible study, church, YAC or youth meetings. Spending time with God becomes a priority in our lives. We seek first His kingdom with our time.

The second area is our talents. I'm encouraged to see so many people using their talents for the Lord here at EFC. There are the greeters, the ushers, the nursery workers, the Sunday School and EFCito workers, the preachers, teachers, the housekeepers, the IT workers and many others that serve behind the scenes. What do they do what they do, because they are seeking first the kingdom of God.

The third area, and the one that most demonstrates if I'm surrendered to God's authority is the way we handle our treasures. It is often the most difficult area in our lives to completely surrender. We think that our money, our material possessions, our treasure belongs to us. But when we truly surrender this area of our lives, we will no longer just give God limosa – a charity gift as if we're giving a pity token to God. When we realize that God owns everything we have, all of our resources and that we are just stewards, then we will be generous, we can experience God's kingdom authority over our resources.

Coming back to our prayer life. Jesus gives us a model to pray. It's found in the Lord's prayer. The part that we are focusing in on today is praying – your kingdom come. And there is something that happens when we focus on that part of our prayer – we begin to focus from within ourselves to the kingdom. We begin to pray for others. We begin to be concerned for others. While we're experiencing heartache, difficulties and challenges in our lives, by praying for God's kingdom to come we actually see things from a different perspective. We no longer see our mates, our husbands, and wives as our enemies. We begin to pray for them and seek God's face and favor to them. We begin to pray for our children, our parents, our bosses, our toxic coworkers at work, our neighbors, our friends, our enemies, our government officials, people and nations from around the world. We begin to pray for the lost who need Jesus from every nation from around the world.

There is something that takes place when we begin to pray - your kingdom come. In our prayer time, in that quiet place, we are to pray – Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name. Your kingdom come... It will be then you will hear from God, because God will hear from you. Your prayers will then become genuine instead of inward focused. And when God begins to hear your prayer – you can continue to hallow or praise His name. Because God has your attention, and He desires to hear and answer your prayers.

Today we're talking about God's kingdom. When we surrender our lives to Him and His authority, He begins to work in our lives. During the Olympic Games, when a winner stands on the podium to receive the medal, the Olympic authorities don't ask the winner, "what song do you want us to play?" No, the authorities play the national anthem of the kingdom that you represent. It doesn't matter that you won the medal on your own merits because you represent somewhere higher than yourself.

The same is true with us. We represent a higher authority in our lives. When we give our lives to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we live for a higher kingdom – God's kingdom! So let's remember, that the

kingdom for which we live has a king, who just so happens to be our father, our daddy. And when we pray, he will hear our prayers.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name. Your kingdom come...

Let's pray.