



Condensed Milk (Matthew 6:9-13 Series)

How to Pray, 'Your kingdom come...' (6:10).

SUMMARY: When we pray, "Your kingdom come..." we are praying for the presence and growth of God's kingdom on earth now, and for the coming of his eternal kingdom in its fullness.

To appreciate the meaning of this petition we must understand its biblical context. When Jesus began his ministry announced the gospel, and always as "the good news of the kingdom". This phrase appears 86 times in the gospels. It is how John announced the coming of Jesus (Matt. 3:1-2). It was the way Jesus defined his ministry (Matt. 4:17, 23; 9:35). It was what he directed the twelve disciples to announce (Matt. 10:5-8) and instructed his 70 emissaries to proclaim as they prepared villages for his arrival (Luke 10:8-9). He spent 40 days after his resurrection training the apostles in kingdom theology (Acts 1:3). So, where did that focus come from?

We need to understand, first, that the enjoyed rule of God was lost to humanity when Adam and Eve sinned. Human history began in paradise, with humanity under the reign of God. There was no sin, evil, suffering, conflict, hurt, sickness or death. There was righteousness, peace, and joy in God. God made Adam and Eve his vice-regents, to have dominion over the whole earth. But he gave them one prohibition. "Do not eat the fruit from that tree or you will die." They had to choose who would be their king, who made the rules, and who they would trust with their well-being. Adam and Eve proved to be treasonous. Because they represented all humanity, we all fell under the curse of God (Romans 5:12). The earth we were to rule rebels against us and even kills us. The good reign of God was lost.

But even as the experience of God's reign was compromised God promised Eve that one of her descendants would crush Satan's head. The Savior would not be an angel. He would be a human. Throughout Old Testament

¹ Bible verses on God's kingdom coming:

Daniel 2:44. In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

Matthew 6: 33. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

history God expanded on this in the promise to Abraham. Through his descendants the whole world would be blessed. This was repeated to his son Isaac and grandson Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons and to Judah God promised that the scepter, the symbol of a king's authority, would never depart from his tribe. David, a descendent of Judah, was promised that he'd have an heir to sit on the throne forever. The prophets expanded on this expectation. Now, Jesus was descended from David. At the time of his birth, the Jewish authorities informed the magi that the anticipated newborn king would be found in Bethlehem, as Micah had prophesied. Understandably, Jesus' claim to embody the kingdom and to be the king, created a sensation. His miracles confirmed his claim as they rolled back the power of sin's curse. Continuing Jesus' teaching, the disciples explained that Jesus was the second Adam who kept the law of God, paid the penalty of sin, and rose to life for the people he represented. His death, resurrection, righteousness and life is theirs. And, as the prophet's promised, he gives believers new hearts (on which the law of God is written), the indwelling Spirit for spiritual power, eternal life and fellowship with God. These are the citizens of the kingdom, who confess Jesus as their king and bring the realities of the kingdom to earth. They live in anticipation of Christ's return and God's reign on earth.

When we pray, "Your kingdom come" we are praying for three specific things. We are praying for more people to come into the kingdom. We are praying for more kingdom to come into those same people. And we are praying for Jesus to return to establish his perfect kingdom on earth. Jesus did not come to rescue us from this earth and take us into heaven; he came to bring heaven and the joy-giving rule of God to earth.

Practice Exercise: Write at least one sentence of prayer that expresses this theme. The verses in the footnotes can help you with this as you reflect on them.¹

1Corinthians 6: 9-10. Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men, **10**nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

2 Peter 3: 13. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.



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Content Questions:

1. What are we praying for when we pray, "Your kingdom come"?
2. What is the context of "the good news of the kingdom"?
3. What three specific things are we praying for when we pray, "Your kingdom come"?

Discussion Questions:

4. What stands out to you in this article and why?
5. What does it mean to pray for people to come into the kingdom?
What do we want these people to do?
6. Would one or two of you share your own experience of spiritual birth into God's kingdom (that is, how you came to faith in Jesus and in what ways God's Spirit has changed you)?
7. What do you think or feel about Jesus being the king of your life?
8. If Jesus is not the king of one's life what other things might govern a person?
9. How do you feel about asking Jesus to return, to destroy all evil, and to set up a new and perfect kingdom on earth?

Take-Home Practice: In the prayer journals you've been given try to journal a prayer that begins with the first four phrases of the Lord's Prayer, each day this next week.

