

Priorities of Prayer // Matthew 6:10

- Welcome / Story / Every Passing Day
 - But until then – we will make the best of what God has provided us.
 - While the physical doors to our building may be closed – the doors to the kingdom are wide open!!!
 - And while I believe it's ok to mourn what we've lost I also think it's important to celebrate what we've gained.
- Continue on in our mini-series Deeper Still.
 - We're taking a few weeks to dive a little deeper into one particular section of the Sermon on the Mount – the Lord's Prayer.
 - We have mentioned in the E-News over the last few weeks, and I believe Pastor Gregg made mention of this last week as well...
 - *"This prayer, the Lord's Prayer is curiously relevant to all people in every culture and life circumstance throughout history. It is a work of both literary and sacred genius."*
 - And honestly – I cannot think of a passage of scripture that we, as the church, need to re-align ourselves with now more than ever.
 - We started our series by look at the Posture of Prayer.
 - Learning to pray well requires a different way of thinking.
 - Then we drew our attention towards the Person of Prayer
 - We focused on the worlds Our Father, Heaven, and Hallowed.
- And today we're going to look at the Priorities of Prayer.
 - Now as I say that – I don't want to confuse you. We're not going to be talking about Prayer as a priority... That is an entirely different message and topic.
 - Prayer absolutely needs to be a priority in the life of a disciple.

1 Thessalonians 5:6-18 NASB

⁶ Rejoice always; ¹⁷ pray without ceasing; ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- Rejoice always – not just when things are going well.
- Pray without ceasing.
 - Does that mean praying constantly – personally that's not how I read this passage.
 - I don't think we are being asked to walk around all day & night mumbling prayers...
 - I read it as an exhortation to pray consistently,
 - Prayer needs to be a priority in our lives.
 - But – that's not what I want to expound upon today.
 - Today – what I want to share with you is what Jesus is telling us the priorities of our prayers should be.
- Story about NH at Retreat.
 - I started talking with this guy who was standing over in the corner. Guess what we talked about?
 - The Weather & The Superbowl!
 - Turns out I was speaking with expert in a field that I was currently studying, and we talked about snow & sports! If only I knew who I was speaking with! If only I knew – I'm sure I would have asked some bold questions I would have talked less and listened more...
- But isn't this often how our prayer life is?
 - We talk with God as if we are having a conversation with just anyone... And while I'm not going to discourage having a personal relationship with God where you CAN talk about anything...
 - I wonder if... we became more keenly aware of who He is in relation to who we are, if our prayers would be different?

- Perhaps our prayers would be a bit more bold and audacious.
- Perhaps prayer would become more of a priority
- Perhaps the priority of our prioritized prayer would shift.
 - It would become less about us – and more about Him.
- **Prayer:** Eyes, ears, hearts... help us shift the priorities of our prayers God and make them less about us, and more about you.
 - Lets pray together the way Jesus taught us in Matthew 6.
 - The words will be on the screen for you to follow along...

Matthew 6:9-13 ESV

⁹ Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread, ¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

- Amen
- After establishing that God is a compassionate and capable Father,
 - “Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name...”
- Jesus goes on to show us that the priority of our prayer should be advancing His agenda, not our own.

Matthew 6:10 ESV

¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

- We’re going to take our time today to unpack the significance of these few simple words.
 - Considering the placement of this line in the prayer what I think Jesus is saying here is this...
 - **“we are to long for God’s presence before longing for His Provision.”**
- These words are familiar ones... words many of us have been saying for quite some time.
 - I memorized the Lord’s prayer at a very young age and have been praying it ever since...
 - And as a result – the words have become almost too familiar.
 - And sadly it’s in that familiarity – at least for me if I can be fully transparent, that I’ve allowed this phrase to lose some of it’s **profound significance**.
- This phrase, this request of God, that **His Kingdom Come** should shake us to our core.
 - Because the reality is – in our brokenness we’ve created a world in which we desire to reign as the king of our own kingdom.
 - Our sin shifted our focus from God to ourselves. And Culture says that’s how it should be... And truthfully – that’s how many of us live.
 - **What is Jesus doing? He is turning over the tables in our hearts...**
 - Our kingdom, or kingdoms are the places where we’ve arranged everything to suit our own needs and desires.
 - Where we control or at least try to control the outcomes.
 - Examples: Office, Shed, Camper, Car, etc...
 - These examples may seem trivial and in many ways they are, but they point to bigger issue.
 - **Our inherent desire for control**
 - But Scripture tells us there is another way, a better way, but it is countercultural.
- Now lets talk about the Kingdom of God for a moment.

- The Kingdom of God, also referred to as the Kingdom of Heaven was central to the teaching and mission of Jesus throughout the Gospels.
 - At the very beginning of Jesus Ministry in Matthew 4 he says...

Matthew 4:17b NLT

"Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."

- Jesus used stories and metaphors to try and help us understand.
 - In fact – the entire sermon on the mount is essentially about the Kingdom of God.
 - The SOTM is a close to a bulleted list as we're going to get when it comes to Kingdom living and what a Kingdom Citizen life should look like.
- However, I cannot stress this enough. This isn't a list of does and don'ts. But rather – a description of what our lives, our community, our world, can and should begin to look like through the transformational power of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- The Kingdom of God is a place that reflects His perfect character.
 - It's a place of joy, truth, grace, hope, love, and peace.
 - It's a place of Shalom. As it should be.
 - There is no **deceit** in the kingdom
 - There is no **pandemic** in the kingdom
 - No **politics** in the kingdom
 - No **slander** in the kingdom
 - There is no **addiction** in the kingdom
 - There is no **hate** in the kingdom
 - There is no **racial** prejudice in the kingdom
 - **The kingdom of God is good because that's where God is and God is good!**
- The SOTM, which describes for us the Kingdom of God should create within us, stir up within us, a desire, a yearning for the Kingdom, **AND** the King!
- When we pray boldly that "Your Kingdom Come," we're acknowledging God as the King,
 - We're embracing the already, the Kingdom of God being near,
 - **AND** we're also anticipating the not yet. **When God and His Kingdom reigns in all of it's fullness here on Earth, and in us and through us.**
 - That's' what we mean when we say the already, but not yet.
 - That's the tension we feel when we turn on the news and see what is going on in the world all around us.

Matthew 6:10a ESV

10 *Your kingdom come, **your will be done...***

- Not my will, but his will. Not my ways, but his ways...Not my thoughts, but his thoughts...
 - **So we're praying for the Kingdom, and the Will of God!**
 - That begs the question, what is the will of God?
 - What is the true desire of God?
 - That we Love God, and love others;
 - That enemies would be reconciled through Jesus Christ;
 - That every knee would bow and worship him;
 - That every tongue would confess that Jesus is Lord
 - That followers would rejoice, pray, and give thanks in ALL things;
 - That we'd be transformed by the renewing of our minds;

- That we would worship from a humble heart
- That we would live to serve and bless others
- That we would be good stewards
- That we would have loving relationships
- That we would have hearts that are full of...
 - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...
- **That we would begin to understand that we cant do any of it – apart from Him.**

- That is God’s will for me, for you.

Matthew 6:10a ESV

¹⁰ *Your **kingdom** come, your **will** be done...*

- The “Kingdom” emphasizes a social order, the way things should be.
- Whereas the “Will” of God emphasizes the redemptive intent of God for the world and for His children. (Screen)

Matthew 6:10 ESV

¹⁰ *Your kingdom come, your will be done, **on earth as it is in heaven.***

- Not just there (heaven), but here.
- Not just for then, but now.
- The Kingdom of God has already been established here on earth with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - However – the kingdom of God here on earth is also ‘Not-Yet’ what it will be.
 - That’s why Jesus commands us to pray on Earth as it is (already is) in Heaven.
 - Our desire, should be that of God’s desire
 - Our desire should be that what’s up there, out there, is down here, right here, **right now in our midst.**
 - **We’ve got Kingdoms going up all over place, but there is only one Kingdom we need and it’s not mine, and it’s not yours! It’s His!**
 - We are to pray boldly, and confidently.
 - Your Kingdom Come, Your Will be done, on Earth as it is, In Heaven!
- What I love about this line in the Lord’s prayer is that it is acknowledging that we cant do it.
 - We cant bring the Kingdom Come – only God can.
 - That doesn’t mean we don’t have responsibility – I’ll get to that in a minute...
 - But – Kingdom Come, is God’s job, not mine, not yours, and praise Jesus for that!
 - Because I’m pretty sure I’d mess it up!!!
 - The reality is this is God’s job, because in order for His Kingdom Come, there is an enemy that needs to be defeated.
 - And while we may think the enemy is:
 - Ignorance,
 - Natural disasters
 - Politicians that we disagree with
 - Addiction & Abuse
 - Viruses & Pandemics
 - Racism & Prejudice
 - The real enemy, His name is Satan – and he is everywhere.
 - He disguises himself in creative and deceptive ways...

- And if we're not careful – we will fall prey to him.
- What I also know is this, we, you and I, cannot win that fight, but HE can!
 - And that's why we boldly pray, your Kingdom Come, Your Will be done, on Earth, as It is in Heaven.
- Now – on to our part, our responsibility.
 - Not only do we pray boldly – there is certainly work to be done.
 - But that work doesn't start with our hands – it starts in our hearts.
 - It starts with a surrender.
 - Where we acknowledge our brokenness before a loving savior. Where we acknowledge the enemy has a stronghold in our own hearts.
 - The temptation is to look at the hearts of others...
 - The temptation is to use the SOTM as a window in the hearts and brokenness of others, so that we may judge...
 - However - I believe Jesus is using the SOTM, as a mirror of sorts.
 - Giving us a way to look deep into our own hearts so that we can see how great our need for him really is.
- When we begin to truly understand who we are and who we are praying to.
 - Who we are talking with...
 - A Heavenly Father who listens to us.
 - who shows compassion on us despite our flaws and weakness
 - who covers us with love even though we deserve his wrath
 - who cares for our every need
 - who corrects out of love for our good
 - who is inherently good and loving
 - **Our prayers will become bold.**
 - Once you know who you're talking to...
 - everything changes.
 - your priorities shift
 - the surrender becomes sweet...
 - That doesn't mean it's easy, It just means it's worth it.

▪ Big Idea: **Our priority in prayer is not for us to convince God to do our will, but rather, that our hearts would soften to His.**

- A question I'd like to encourage you to reflect on as we close today...
 - Are you finding yourself trying to find a way to squeeze God into your kingdom?
 - Or-
 - Are you surrendering your will, and your desires so that you discover how you fit into His?
- The Priority of Prayer, is such that we surrender fully to Him,
 - To His Kingdom,
 - To His Will for our lives...
- That's my hope and prayer for you today... for me...
- I came across this prayer from John Wesley as I was preparing this message...
 - *I put myself wholly into Thy hands: put me to what Thou wilt, rank me with whom Thou wilt; put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for Thee, or laid aside for Thee, or trodden under foot for Thee; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing, I freely, and heartily resign all to Thy pleasure and disposal. Amen.*

▪ **Prayer**