

Thine is the Kingdom

By RT Nusbaum

Jesus was speaking to the disciples in Matthew 6:9-11 when he said, "Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

Most of us know this prayer by heart, and yet, many are not aware of the real impact of what this prayer is saying. This is a Kingdom prayer because it is centered on the Kingdom of God. It is not a prayer about spiritual blessings. It is not a prayer about how the Church can get along. It is not an individual prayer primarily outside of the greater realm of the Kingdom of God. It is a prayer from the very heart of Jesus Christ to accomplish in this earth the thing which he desires. Jesus did not call this the Lord's prayer. It is the disciples' prayer that Jesus gave to the disciples. He wanted it to be passed down to all generations.

King of Kings and Lord of Lords

One of the great needs in Christianity is for the Kingdom of God to come and to be known on earth. Jesus came not just as a Savior, but He was born a King, a Governor. The first persecution was from King Herod. He was not afraid someone would get saved. The devil was not afraid someone would get healed. They were afraid that Jesus was going to be Lord and reign as Lord. As Lord, he could save, heal, or do anything he wanted. With the coming of Jesus' Kingdom would come Kingdom power over demons, sickness, etc. But it would also totally remove Satan from authority. Jesus knows that the Kingdom of God, not just getting saved is the real point.

Most of us know we need salvation to enter heaven but God has plans for you before heaven. God wants the Kingdom in earth like it is in heaven. You need salvation for without it, you can not enter the Kingdom (John 3:?). Unless you are born again you can not even see the Kingdom. If you are born again then you can begin to see the Kingdom of God. Then, you can begin to grow in the knowledge of the Kingdom of God. And then, you can become a part and a partaker of the Kingdom and to help spread that Kingdom.

We are to confess Jesus as Lord not just Savior. In fact it is the Lord who does the saving. When He rose from the dead as King of kings and Lord of lords. The resurrection is not just a concept concerning someone who was dead but now is alive. The resurrection is a Kingdom concept. The resurrection was the ascension of the King of kings and Lord of lords to the throne of God. That is where He sits right now as King and as Lord. He won

the right to save souls. He won the right to heal. It is His Lordship that gives Him the right to save. If He was not Lord, He could not be Savior. The church is the vehicle that should spread the message that He is resurrected. So the Gospel writer in Romans 10, Paul, says, "If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe that God raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

We must learn the importance of the Kingdom over just salvation. A bunch of saved people are not going to be able to accomplish what the Kingdom will. The churches are full on Sunday mornings but the impact of the church is hardly felt. And so the new birth is great, but many people get saved, but never progress past a future hope. Their lives count for very little on the earth. If they get baptized in the Holy Spirit, they get on fire for awhile, but their fire seems to go out. They will do some good things for awhile but then they begin to fizzle out. But we are to be preachers of the gospel of the Kingdom of God. We are to declare that the Kingdom of God is at hand; that Jesus is Lord right now. He is not going to be Lord. He is not our soon coming King. He is our King right now! He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

The Lord is victorious over death, hell, the grave and the devil. Some have gotten hold of part of the message. They have gotten hold of the victory and the power part. But we should realize that He is trying to bring our lives into subjection also. Our flesh needs to be conquered first.

"When you pray, pray this..."

So Jesus gave a us a prayer with a certain theme. It was a prayer that He wanted passed down to future generations. The theme of the prayer was to continue for two thousand years until it came down to us. He said, "When you pray, pray this, "Our Father, which art in heaven." He is about to address the plan to get the Kingdom to come in earth as it is in heaven. But, as the plan begins from a heavenly viewpoint, so does the prayer: "Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."

Did you know that the Name of the Lord is not hallowed in the earth as it is in heaven? He is King and Lord over everybody right now. He bought and paid for us. In history, for most men to become king, it was necessary to fight a battle and win the battle over an enemy. But for Jesus, just winning the victory over the devil was not enough. Redeeming us from under control of the devil only put us in a position to exercise our free will again. In this way we could finally choose God if we wanted to. But a lot of people do not want to choose the Lord. However, many will turn to the Lord so it is our job is to go tell them. One day all, whether in heaven or earth or under the earth, every knee is going to bow. One day the earth is going to be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God. It is going to take coming back to Jesus as King. But we are not waiting for a day, for right now we hallow His Name in the earth. So we preach the gospel of the Kingdom.

Notice the flow of this prayer as we continue into it. "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done." His will is not going to be done in us until His Kingdom comes. His Kingdom has a legal right to be in the earth right now. But He will not force men under it. He is waiting for men to submit to it willingly. It involves their own freedom of choice.

But how shall they hear unless we preach. How shall they know unless we go, and we tell them. Everybody has the opportunity to accept the King. It is not just a choice of whether you want to be saved but continue to live within the kingdom of this world.

But the Kingdom of God begins to take hold in our hearts first of all. As we begin to be controlled by the Kingdom of God, then we begin to come together in a place. We begin to conform the environment to the Kingdom of God; in earth as it is in heaven. We start taking back the earth. As it stands now, we live in a world where we are forced to hear people telling dirty jokes, or to hear the music of the world. Everything is centered around this world's system and not the Kingdom of God.

What is the Kingdom of God?

What is the Kingdom of God? It is where Christ rules as King. For where He rules as King, His will is done. But where you and I rule, our will is done. Where the devil rules, his will is done. We can be saved and still not have the Kingdom come in our vessel yet. So He said pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done." You should pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God in earth in us. Every disciple should pray this prayer. The Bible says to seek ye first the Kingdom, not just salvation. We should seek to bring people to the knowledge that He is already King and deserves to be worshipped and honored now.

Where there is a king and a kingdom, there are people of the kingdom. And where there is a kingdom, there are certain provisions and benefits of that kingdom just like in any government or kingdom. If you become a citizen of the United States, you get certain benefits. Even so, in the Kingdom of God. Ask the King to give us day by day our daily bread. The King will give provision to His people.

Do you see what this prayer is declaring? He is saying that if we hallow His Name and we pray to be conformed under the King, then we have every right to believe for the daily provisions of that Kingdom. David saw this same truth and stated. "I've never seen the righteous forsaken or his seed out begging for bread." This King takes care of His own. When he uses the words "day by day, our daily" this means that this King is involved daily and provision is there, not once a month, not once a year. It is daily bread. It may not be a great storehouse given a year in advance. The reason behind us wanting this much provision is in order that we might feel comfortable. But our assurance should be because we know that daily Jesus is sitting right there at the right hand of God and He watches over me, and I am under His rule. And He is King of the "right now." He is going to take care of my daily needs.

One of the laws of this Kingdom, is if the King forgives you every time you do something wrong, you ought to forgive somebody else every time they do. "And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." We have boldness to come before the throne of grace. It is not just a room of grace but a throne, which speaks of a Kingdom. because we know that if we go in there and say, "God, forgive me," He says, "I forgive you."

Many of the parables begin with this phrase, "the Kingdom of heaven is like..." What is the Kingdom of heaven? We find in Matthew 13 that the Kingdom of heaven begins with the sowing of the Word of the Kingdom, but it ends with the harvest. The period of time from the coming of Jesus to the time of His return is called the kingdom of heaven. We think of the Kingdom of heaven in terms of going to heaven. But the kingdom deals with bringing what is in heaven down to the earth, instead of the other way around. It is His Kingdom rule from heaven in the earth that He is anxious to bring about. He describes it perfectly from the moment He came and sowed the seeds of the Word of the Kingdom til He comes back. "The Kingdom of heaven is like..." Now, there are other kingdoms talked about in the scripture but we are talking about the Kingdom of heaven. The Kingdom of heaven is constantly shown in every parable as starting with Jesus sowing of the seeds of the Word of the Kingdom and ending with his return.

In one place He says, "the Kingdom of Heaven is like... a certain king that would take account of his people." If we would judge our sins daily, we would not be judged. If we would only be hard on ourself and not let ourselves get away with things. We are our own judge. But your spirit says "No." I'm judging this situation right now. You're not going to do that. We're going to follow King Jesus. And the soul begins to submit under the spirit, and the body begins to follow the soul. Then, when Jesus comes or when we come before the throne of grace, you can be bold.

The Throne Room of God

Prayer is literally going into a throne room; it is coming boldly before the throne of grace. It is not just prayer between two people. It is not like we just throw something up and hope it gets up there. Prayer is direct access into the throne room of God.

The reason people do not pray more is because they have a lot of undealt with sin, and they feel guilty because the blood of Jesus has not yet washed away that sin. So they get nervous when they come before God. The blood has not cleansed their conscience from dead works. He said you can come boldly because you know you are right with God because the blood of Jesus has cleansed you. Do you know why someone thinks that God is going to zap him? He has not gotten it settles about all his sins. Do you know why somebody does not want to pray? They may not mentally understand it, but there is something in them that does not want to go before God.

Do you know why some people do not want to go to some churches? It brings conviction and they do not like that feeling. But that is nothing but guilt which God put in us in the very beginning. Guilt is not bad. Guilt can bring you to a place where you say, "I need the cleansing blood." And it washes your guilt away. Then there is no more guilt. The answer for guilt is not hiding as if there were no guilt. That is what Adam and Eve did. They were guilty and they tried to cover it up instead of dealing with it properly. We simply need to obtain God's forgiveness.

"Forgive us your debts as we forgive..." You do not forgive as easily when you are not forgiven. When you are carrying a load of guilt which has cut you off from the presence

of God, it is easy to start pointing out the failures of others. Is not that what Adam and Eve did? They tried to cover their sin instead of dealing with it. Then, when they were confronted, they blamed someone else. "It's that woman you gave me." Then the woman said, "it was that snake which You put in the garden, God." You begin to easily see the faults of someone else. And in the last days it is going to get really bad. Brother is going to be against brother. The love of many is going to grow cold.

"The Kingdom reality does not imply that everybody is perfect"

The church ought to be the ones who are bringing in the realm of the Kingdom, but the church has become an organization. Where the church is just an organization, there is going to be divisions and dissensions. That is what Paul wrote to the Corinthians when he said, "Are you not carnal when there is divisions among you." He was implying that they were not under the control of the King of kings. Paul asked, "Is Christ divided?" James says, "Where there is envy and strife, there is wickedness and every evil work." However, when the heart begins to be under the control of the Holy Spirit and you begin to get that daily bread and daily cleansing, then you are no longer looking to point your finger at somebody else. Peter asked "How often shall I forgive my brother?" Jesus replied, "Seventy times seven in a day." Now that is Kingdom living.

If we were all perfect, there would not be a need for forgiveness. The Kingdom reality does not imply that everybody is perfect. It just means Jesus rules and can deal with us when we do wrong. He can call your number real quickly and you will respond. That is what David did when Nathan the prophet told him the story, and then said "You are the man that sinned." David could have denied the whole thing. He could have made excuses, but he replied, "I have sinned." He repented right away. I want to be in a place where the King can rule. I want the Kingdom to come in this earth.

The Kingdom viewpoint I have just shared totally take these scriptures out of the realm of just forgiving and being good forgiving Christians. This is saying that I want to be in the Kingdom and ruled by the King.

They say, "Jesus is going to forgive me. I'm a Christian. And I can do a whole bunch of sinning and have a whole bunch of fun down here and get to heaven. Why are you doing the way you are? You're missing out on a lot of fun that you could be having." First of all, I don't just want to be saved some day in the future. Do you see what I'm saying? Salvation is not just a future thing to me. He didn't just come to save me in my sins but from my sins. And I want to be saved from them right now. I want to be right with God.

Many Will Be Offended

At some point there is going to come a great falling away. There is going to come a time when it is going to be hard to serve Jesus. The nations will come against you, and they will hate you. They will persecute you and some of you will be killed for His names sake. In light of that fact, why would any Christian be opposed to being more on fire for Jesus?

But that is what persecution has always brought about. It purges the church. It says of those who are just following for the benefits, "and many will be offended."

They will be offended because they are no longer receiving the benefits of a Kingdom they never submitted unto. They begin to put demands on the King. And when they go into prayer, they put demands on Him and expect Him to jump. But that is not what this prayer is saying nor is it the spirit of this prayer.

When we pray, we should speak to our King and say, "Give us day by day the bread that I need and forgive me my trespasses (because I'm out there forgiving others because you forgave me). Don't let me get into temptation (but you are well able to keep that which I have committed unto you against that day). For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever." It is forever and not just when He comes back some day. So there is no need to try to build me a kingdom. There is no need for me to try to capitalize on God's power, for His is the glory.

When you understand that, then you are an errand boy for God. I realize that we are much more than that in His eyes. I realize that we are very precious to Him, but I'm trying to bring out another aspect that is very important. To be the delivery boy for the King of kings and Lord of lords is not a bad position at all. It is a wonderful place to be, because you realize that you may be delivering healing, comfort, salvation, to others from the King of kings. And because it is from Him, you do not get puffed up. There is no reason to think of yourself as "God's man of faith and power." You do not want to think of yourself more highly than what you are. But when you understand that His is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever, then you realize that you are just a channel.

Because you are his servant, his delivery boy, you live in peace instead of frustration. Sometimes the King wants to deliver something and sometimes He does not choose to. If he chooses to use you then so be it. If not, you are still his servant that stands ready when He is ready for service.

Sometimes we treat the King as if he were our servant. when we want something, we usually insist it come right now. But maybe He sees better than we do. He may withhold something from us that we think would be the best possible thing. But Jesus must be allowed to be King in our lives. But when God does not move in the way that we dictate, we begin to question whether God is a good God. I always picture a child sitting on the floor playing with a loaded gun. Then I picture the parent taking the gun away from the child. Of course the child starts to cry and get an attitude toward the parent that removed the gun. The question is, "Does the parent give the child what it wants just because it does not understand?" In your heart, you may want your child to have everything possible but at times you must make a stand for his own good. God sometimes has to say "No." There is not a thing wrong with that nor is there any lack of love for the action taken. You do not love your child less because you remove a gun from his hand. In fact, it proves that you love him more. People think God spoils all their fun.

If God does something great through you, it is wonderful. And if He does not use us the next time, there should be no problem. But the problem is we get people looking at us because of what God did the last time. If you had said the first time that this is from God, and I did not have nothing to do with it, then people would look to the Lord. That is the way Jesus operated? He said, "The works I do are not my own; they are the Father's. As I hear, I speak; as I see, I do." I can not heal anybody nor can you. There is no need for someone to try to build a reputation on it. If God decides not to heal, then you are going to look bad. The best thing to do is build a reputation for being a delivery boy.

We must develop the same attitude as Jesus who said, "I did not come to be ministered to but to minister and to give my life a ransom." When that is your attitude, then you are willing to wait. That is what being the handmaiden of the Lord is all about. That is what the cupbearer of the Lord will do. If you are at a restaurant and your glass begins to get empty, the waiter or waitress will show up and fill it. They are called a waiter or waitress because they "wait" on you and your needs. That is really a good picture of how it ought to be with the Lord. As I see, I do. If I do not hear something, I wait. There are times when we must wait not just do. The reason we want to do something is because we know to obey is to accomplish something that He desires. But it brings Him just as much pleasure to do what He wants called "waiting."

Another reason we may want to do for Him is because we want to see big things happen. Be assured the Kingdom of God is going to bring big events.

We have to be like a glove through whom Jesus reaches out to others. When He touches, they feel His touch. It is not some super spiritual thing. Very simply, it is "Greater is He..." "Father, I cried, "This poor boy cried unto you, and you heard me out of your holy hill and answered my prayer." He is the King.

We need to take our minds off of how good or how bad we are and get focused on how great Jesus is. When we're caught up in the awesomeness, the greatness of the Lord, then He moves to us and through us. Then the Kingdom begins to be established.

Of course establishing the Kingdom is greater than just winning souls. We are attempting to bring them under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In that way Jesus directs their lives. A person can get saved yet still be miserable. That is just salvation. When you start talking about the Kingdom, then "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee."