

# SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM

(Matthew 6:7-13)

## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Jesus gave us a pattern for prayer, a model prayer. It's a precious jewel that leads us into deeper communion with our Father in heaven. Each phrase in the prayer is a theme that we want to adopt as the main points of our prayer-life. The order of the prayer is also very significant. (Matt. 6:7-13)

***Matt. 6:7-9***

***<sup>7</sup> "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup> "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. <sup>9</sup> In this manner, therefore, pray...***

- B. Q: According to verse 7, what is a motivation for people when they pray? Why do people pray the way they do (in this case, with vain repetitions)?
- C. Jesus says: Don't be like them. Don't pray to try to get God to hear you. He already hears you. He already knows what you need before you ask Him. Don't be like them. Pray like this: "Our Father..."

## II. SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM

- A. One of the reasons Jesus teaches us to pray this way is because it helps us to obey Matthew 6:33 (context: vs. 25-34)

***<sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matt. 6:33)***

- B. Sometimes, prayer can be an extension of our flesh and become a way to worry about things. God's Kingdom doesn't operate by worry. It operates by faith. You can't pray the Lord's Prayer if you're praying out of worry. If you pray out of worry, you will try to ask for forgiveness first, or bring your prayer-list to God first. In the Lord's prayer, you start with heaven and then move to earth.

## III. YOUR KINGDOM COME

- A. #1 **Anticipation** and **longing** for God's Kingdom to be fully manifest on the earth.

1. Jesus' main message and the main issue of the Bible is God's Kingdom. It means God's rule, His reign. God is the King seated upon His throne. Jesus is coming as the King. Declared: the Kingdom of God is at hand. It's here, it's real. It's not here in fullness. God is going to give time for people to turn to Him.

**Rev. 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (c.f. Dan. 2:31ff, vs. 44)**

- B. #2 **Participation** and **partnership** in God's government. God invites us to partner with Him in the Kingdom, His government being expressed on the earth. We are ambassadors of God's Kingdom. This is the way God has designed His government to operate, even for His Son. (Psa. 2:7-8)

**Psalm 2:7-8 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. <sup>8</sup> Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.**

1. This is the mystery of intercession. God the Father wants God the Son, Jesus, to ask Him for the nations. "I will give them to You." Because God is demonstrating that He works by partnership. God's way is to prepare the Bride to be blameless, pure, and spotless, ready to be a co-heir with His Son, Jesus. Equally yoked. (Rev. 20:6; 2 Tim. 2:12)

- C. #3 **Surrender and receptivity.** Invite God's Kingdom rule in me.

**Luke 17:21 "nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."**

#### IV. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

- A. We start by seeking God's Kingdom first. Then we have worship God and pause to remember that His name is holy. After we have invited His Kingdom rule and reign on the earth and in our lives, we now move to our own lives.
- B. We don't pray to inform, but to trust God, that He cares for you. He delights to give good gifts to His children. We pray in acknowledgement that every good gift comes from above, the Father of Lights.
- C. Daily bread: Ask for personal needs: wisdom, direct your paths.. (Prov. 3:5-6)

**Prov. 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.**

#### V. COMMUNION

We don't live on bread alone. To live is Christ. (John 6:35; 14:6; 17:3; Luke 22:19-20)

**John 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.**