

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Jesus lived a life of prayer (Luke 5:16; 6:12; Mk. 1:35). He teaches us how to pray.

Luke 11:1 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

Matt. 6:9-13 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

- B. Prayer does not begin on earth, but begins in heaven: Our Father in heaven, then there is overflow into worship. Holy is Your name.
- C. Turn your gaze to heaven. Don't rush straight into your shopping list. Don't go straight to feeling guilty and asking God to forgive you of your sins. Don't start with earth. Rather, lift your gaze higher to Father in heaven. This leads to: Worship God (Hallowed be Your name).

II. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS THE CENTRAL THEME OF THE BIBLE

- A. The kingdom of God is a central theme of the Scriptures. God's desire: The fullness of the Kingdom of God established on the earth
- B. Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom of God and demonstrated it's breaking in to this age.

Luke 4:43 but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent."

Luke 11:20 But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Luke 9:2 He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

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

- C. After the resurrection, Acts 1:1-3, Jesus preached the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

- D. Paul preached the Kingdom of God. Acts 28:30-31. To preach the kingdom of God does not necessarily mean that we need to use the word “kingdom of God.” It is the message about how to acknowledge God as our King in every area of life.

Acts 28:31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.

- E. Heaven and earth will be joined together. -This is what Christianity is all about, the big-picture. This is why Jesus died, so that we, though we were sinners, can receive that inheritance.

Ephesians 1:9-10 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth — in Him.

Revelation 21:1-3 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

III. THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM MUST BE PROCLAIMED

- A. Definition: The kingdom of God is wherever God’s rule and reign are established.

- B. The kingdom of God is the experience of ultimate blessings, like the Garden of Eden, and beyond, where evil is fully overcome and God’s peace and joy are in fullness.

Rom. 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

- C. How enter into Kingdom? Be born again from above (born again) (John 3:3, 5). Repent.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Matthew 3:2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

- D. Without the preaching of the kingdom of God we will only have a luke-warm Christianity. Jesus is Savior and Lord.

- E. Without the preaching of the kingdom of God, we will have an unclear and unfocused Christianity. What is the goal and purpose? We must not miss the most important message of the Bible and pick our own focus and goals. What is God’s Kingdom and His will?

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

- F. Without the preaching of the kingdom of God, we will have a powerless Christianity.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

1 Corinthians 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

G. Without the preaching of the kingdom of God, we will have a disjointed Christianity.

1. Jesus is returning to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth! The earth is so important to God's plan. We will not escape and go to heaven. Heaven is only a "waiting room" where people go to until Jesus comes back to bring heaven and earth together.
2. What you do on earth matters in the age to come. There is continuity.

IV. THE KINGDOM RESTORED

A. We pray for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth because that's where we live, and we want heaven because that is where God's beauty, love, peace, wisdom, knowledge, relational wholeness is fully manifest.

B. Adam (1st man) was given dominion over the earthly realm (Gen 1:28), but with this great responsibility, brought sin and death into the world. Hence, confusion, agony, distress that we experience in the world today.

C. Man forfeited His dominion over the planet as well.

1. Mankind is destined to rule. Right from the beginning of man's existence, he was to "have dominion" over creation and "over all the earth"

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

D. Genesis 3 shows us how mankind gave up that dominion to the serpent by acknowledging his rule, rather than God's authority.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

E. Jesus came to restore all that was lost, and to take us to the completion of what God intended. God's Kingdom and His will. Jesus' central message: Kingdom of God.

1. *The Kingdom of Heaven/God is like...etc...*All the parables are about the Kingdom of God.
2. Kingdom of God had come near because Jesus, the King had come near.
3. Kingdom had not come completely yet. But the Kingdom had come in an unmistakable way.

4. Jesus demonstrated the kingdom in His preaching/teaching, healing, casting out demons.
5. The Kingdom started small, like a small garden seed (Mark 4:31), yet it grows to be the largest plant in the garden, and the birds come and perch in its shade.
 - a. The Kingdom of God (Matt 13) is like seed that is sown in the ground of our hearts. When we hear God's Word, it bears fruit, and God's Kingdom rule begins to be manifest in our lives!
 - b. Kingdom starts small, but also, Jesus is returning to bring the **fullness of God's Kingdom** in a tremendous way.

V. CONCLUSION: THE KINGDOM OF GOD MUST BE ACTIVELY SOUGHT

- A. We have the privilege and responsibility of drawing from that age to come. Of inviting God's rule and reign today. Not: "Oh, God will do it if He wants to..." but an active seeking. We are inviting God's rule and power into our everyday lives through prayer.

Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

 1. There is no sin heaven, we get to partake in this life by faith. No sickness in heaven. When we pray for healing, we are drawing from that age to come.
 2. When we pray: "Your Kingdom come"
 - a. We are longing for the return of Christ, and the coming of God's Kingdom here on earth.
 - b. We are inviting God's rule and reign into our hearts today. It's an acknowledgement that God is King.
- B. This is our responsibility and our great privilege. God wants us to expect, long for, and petition for the same.
 1. You need to invite God's rule, His will to be done.
 2. God is looking for partnership. Prayer is about partnering with God.
- C. We are to take our God-appointed destiny as sons of The King and establish His kingdom rule wherever we go.