

- iv. prayer as a community of priests mediating God’s just rule in the world.
- v. prayer for anything from Scripture that could be used to finish the sentence, “When God’s kingdom comes _____.”

B. Kingdom focused prayer will bring unity to our prayers.

COMPLETING THE SERMON

- What difference(s) would you like to see in our prayer life as a church this year and what role are you to play in it?
- Would “kingdom praying” change how you pray? Does it expand how you think about how to pray? Explain.
- Why is it essential for us to remember that learning *how* to pray is not merely an academic endeavor?
- Review the list under IV, A, of the five descriptions of what kingdom praying is. Think of ways each of these might spur you on in prayer.
- Review some of Paul’s prayers and try to identify aspects of kingdom praying in them.
- Why is prayer foundational to our faithfulness to God? f

Advancing the Gospel of the Kingdom *Kingdom Praying*

Jerry Cisar — January 2, 2022

Text: Matthew 6:9-13

Introduction: Biblical Prayers are Kingdom Focused

By *Kingdom Praying* I simply mean praying with the purposes, the values, the mission of God’s Kingdom, or rule, in the earth.

I. Psalms

- A. The prayerbook of the Hebrew Bible
 - i. Psalms 1-2, introduction to the whole; 146-160, conclusion.
 - ii. Psalm 2: the kings and rulers of the world standing in opposition to God’s king, the Messiah and His rule.
 - iii. Books I-III (3-89) are about David rising to power out of affliction, but end with the failure of his kingdom.
 - iv. Books IV-V are psalms of exile and return. Psalm 145 paints a picture God’s kingdom reigning over the world.
 - v. Psalms 146-150: God’s people and all creation praising God for His glorious reign.

The story of the Psalms “begins with a promise of a coming king who will bring victory to Israel. And it continues to tell the story of how God rescues David from his affliction and raises him up as king. But then, Israel falls to enemy nations and the people are left without a king and without a home.... The Psalms then explore how Israel renews their trust in YHWH as their king and that he will bring about his kingdom through a future messianic king from the line of David.” (Carissa Quinn, The Bible Project)

- B. It should come as no surprise that when his disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, he responded by teaching them to pray with a focus on the coming kingdom!

II. The Lord's Prayer

- A. The instructive context in which the Lord's Prayer is taught
 - i. Luke 11
 - ii. Matthew 6
- B. The first three requests:
 - i. Hallowed be your name.
 - a) This has to do with how the people who bore his name live their lives.
 - b) 1 Pet. 2:12
 - ii. Your kingdom come.
 - a) Not an escapist cry to be taken out of the world
 - b) Nor is it praying "my kingdom come."
 - c) When God's kingdom comes, those who are falling are upheld, those bowed low in humiliation are raised up, the eyes of all look to the Lord and receive their food in due season (Ps. 145:14-15).
 - d) Praying for God's kingdom to come, means that our prayers ought to reflect God's yearnings for the world around us.

"In the early centuries of the church, public worship services routinely featured intercessory prayers for public needs, issues, and leaders. These prayers were grounded in a vision of the church as the gathering of a 'royal priesthood' (1 Pet. 2:9), responding to God's call to be a people bringing the needs of the world to God." (John Witvliet)

e) Royal priesthood kinds of prayers

- iii. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 - a) Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:39, 41)
 - b) This is the kind of praying necessary for obedience to God's will.
- C. The next three requests are equally kingdom focused.
 - i. Give us this day our daily bread.
 - a) *Our* daily bread
 - b) The manna economy of Israel in the wilderness
 - ii. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
 - iii. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

III. Paul's Prayers

- A. Did Paul pray kingdom prayers?
- B. Colossians 1:9-14

IV. Prayer in Acts

- A. The kingdom was the central motivation of prayer in *Acts*.
- B. Acts 4:23-31

V. Summary: What does it mean to be Kingdom Focused?

- A. Kingdom praying is...
 - i. for God's rule to be present in earth as it is in heaven.
 - ii. always about us even when it is about an individual.
 - iii. not about getting what I want, but about orienting my life around doing what God wants.