

2:42LifeGroups

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE GOSPEL

Life Group Study Guide

Your Kingdom Come

Matthew 6:10

In our series on the Lord's prayer, we have learned that this prayer divides into two parts: first God's priorities, then our needs. This order is important. We will not know what our needs are unless we first recognize God's priorities—that his name be honored as holy, that his kingdom comes, and that his will be done.

In today's message, we focus on the second petition: "Your kingdom come" (Matthew 6:10). The emphasis of this message is that **each person naturally wants his own kingdom to come, not God's. So to sincerely pray "Your kingdom come" means to radically abandon self-rule and joyfully accept the only perfect King, Jesus Christ.** It means to accept what he has done to bring us into his kingdom—dying on the cross for our sins to turn us from being rebels to being his joyful subjects (see Colossians 1:13-14). It also means that we want everyone on the planet to joyfully accept him as their King, and to long for that day when "the kingdom of this world" will finally become "the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ" (Revelation 11:15).

“The Kingdoms of this World”

One day a trumpet will blast, and and loud voices will proclaim, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever” (Revelation 11:15). But until then, “nations” will continue to “rage,” and “the peoples plot in vain . . . against the Lord and against his Anointed” (Psalm 2).

- What problems do we see in the “kingdoms of this world” (governments) that make us desire a *better* kingdom?
- Since the beginning of the history of civilization, people have been trying to devise better political systems, and arguing about which system is best. What kinds of human problems *cannot* be solved by politics?

My Kingdom Come?

- Since humans fell into sin (Genesis 3:1-13), we have been trying to be kings of our own lives. Our defiant tendency is not to pray, “*Your* will be done,” but instead, “*My* will be done.” In what ways do we see this rebellious tendency in the following areas: throughout the storyline of the Bible, in the world around us and within us?

- Read Psalm 2. According to this psalm, what is God’s solution to human rebellion?

“My Kingdom is Not of this World”

The Jews in Jesus’ day expected that the coming kingdom would mean that their political and religious enemies would be immediately destroyed and that all God’s saving promises would be fulfilled (see Luke 1:68-75). So there was much about Jesus’ ministry that disappointed and disillusioned the Jews—including, for a time, John the Baptist! (See Matthew 11:2-3, John 6:66).

Even though the kingdom of God had not come in the full sense promised in the Old Testament (see Isaiah 11), it is true that the kingdom had arrived in the person of Jesus, and in those who placed their trust in him (see Luke 17:20-21). In other words, with Jesus’ first coming, the kingdom had dawned. We await Jesus’ *second coming* for the kingdom to be consummated in its fullness. Until then, we live as citizens of two kingdoms: we have an earthly nationality and a heavenly citizenship (Philippians 3:20).

- Read Matthew 6:2-11. Discuss the characteristics that should be true of us, as citizens of Christ’s kingdom now. How are these traits different from the traits normally associated with worldly success and power?
- When we pray “Your kingdom come,” we can also pray that we would *live* increasingly as citizens of Christ’s kingdom. Which of the following beatitudes do you feel the most need to emulate, and why?

“Then Comes the End”

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28. One day, Jesus’ work of conquering sin and death will be completely over. Only then will we see the final answer to the petition, “Thy kingdom

come;” for, “then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroyed every rule and every authority and power” (1 Corinthians 15:24). Then the prophecy of Isaiah 11 (and many like it) will come to pass.

- Read Isaiah 11:1-9. In what ways will the world described in this passage be different from the world we live in now? What are you most looking forward to about that coming kingdom?

- Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. Discuss what will be true about everyone who inherits the kingdom of God.