

Our King

“40 Days of Prayer” series- Part 02

Connect: If you could become the leader of any country in the world, which would it be and why? What is one thing you would do as the leader?

Hook:

Before French colonialists imposed national boundaries, the kings of Laos and Vietnam reached an agreement on taxation in the border areas. Those who ate short-grain rice, built their houses on stilts, and decorated them with Indian-style serpents were considered Laotians. On the other hand, those who ate long-grain rice, built their houses on the ground, and decorated them with Chinese-style dragons were considered Vietnamese. The exact location of a person’s home was not what determined his or her nationality. Instead, each person belonged to the kingdom whose cultural values he or she embraced and exhibited.

So it is with us, we live in the world, but as a part of God’s kingdom, we are to live according to His kingdom’s standards and values. What kingdom do we represent by the values we embrace and exhibit in our lives?

Jesus, in His model prayer, tells us that we can come before God boldly because He is our perfect Father. He now reminds us that our Father is also a King and He has a Kingdom...in Heaven and on the earth.

Matthew 6:9 Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy.

Matthew 6:10 May Your Kingdom come soon. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Discuss verse 10 using the following questions:

1. Does God have a kingdom in Heaven and what does His Kingship look like?
2. In the Genesis account of Creation, did God establish a kingdom? If “Yes”, what did it look like?
3. What part do we play in God’s Kingdom today? Physically? Spiritually?

When we place ourselves under the authority of God as King, it will show in our behavior and values. The Sermon on the Mount describes the righteous character of a kingdom citizen—one who is living in the kingdom as it exists today. New Testament scholar, R.T. France called the Sermon a “*manifesto setting out the nature of life in the kingdom of heaven.*” Martin Lloyd-Jones calls it “*a perfect picture of the life of the kingdom of God.*”

Book: Matthew 5:1-1

Mat 5:1 One day as He saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around Him,

Mat 5:2 and He began to teach them.

Mat 5:3 "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for Him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Mat 5:4 God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Mat 5:5 God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.

Mat 5:6 God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.

Mat 5:7 God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Mat 5:8 God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

Mat 5:9 God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

Mat 5:10 God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Mat 5:11 "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are My followers.

Mat 5:12 Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

Look:

God, our King, bestows blessings (spiritual joy, peace, and grace) upon those who live life that is, in many ways, contrary to the values and ways of this world. A short list from the Beatitudes includes:

Poor and needy	Seeking Justice
Mourning	Being Merciful
Humble (Meek)	Having a Pure heart
Peacemakers	Being persecuted and mocked
Doing the right thing	

Which of these have you found difficult to live out?

It is common to hear someone say, *"I can't help it...that just the way I am"* to excuse their negative behavior. How does this excuse apply to the Christian?

What should motivate us to change our behavior?

How might interceding on the behalf of others help you to fulfill God's picture of the obedient life?

How do you feel when you acknowledge that the King on the throne is also your loving Father?

Took:

What has God taught you this past week during your times of prayers?

How can you pray for your group this evening and this week?

Which one of the Beatitudes do you want God to give you special grace this week to live out?