

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-10



SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, we continued our series on "A Praying Life," and we take a look at the first two lines of the Lord's Prayer. As the disciples learned how to pray, Jesus made a point to teach them to call God "Our Father." This wasn't a term that the disciples were used to in their understanding of God, but Jesus used it to shift their paradigm towards that of intimacy.

But part of addressing God as "Our Father" is not only intimacy, but more than that. In Jesus' use of "Our Father" he was also referring to the Old Testament, where the first time it shows up is in the Exodus account (Ex 4:22-23), where Moses tells Pharaoh to let God's people go. And in a similar way, the implication that Israel was still under tyranny. This was true because empire after empire had come to rule over Palestine, but while the Israelites were interested in national freedom, we see that Jesus had come to deliver them from the tyranny of sin.

The second idea of "Our Father" is that it carried an idea of apprenticeship and obedience. In that time, whatever vocation your father had, you would follow suit. In praying "Our Father," we also are seeking to do the bidding of our Father, engaged in Kingdom business.

In praying for His kingdom to come and His will to be done, we are asking for God's perfect will, his peace, and his governance to rule in whatever sphere of influence we have. We pray for the heavenly rule of God to come where we are as we seek God's kingdom. It's not a mentality of resignation towards God's way, but it was asking that we too would be able to see what the Father is doing and join in on what He is doing.

In praying this way, we are committed to prayer and action, not one or the other, but both as we see the power of God and the reality of heaven that invades earth through His people.



OUTLINE

1 "OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN..."

The language "our Father" was to help us understand the intimacy that we can have with the Father. Not only that, it was to remind us that we are free, no longer slaves. We are children of God and we have hope in Him, that He will deliver us from the tyranny sin. Thirdly, it was the idea that we are apprentices to Our Father's business. We are meant to do His bidding. We are meant to be people of peace, hope, justice, restoration. As we pray, we are reminded that we are to engage in the same Kingdom business that our Father is in. It's an invitation for the Lord to work in and through us, wherever we are.

2 "YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE..."

Jesus invites us to pray for God's kingdom to come, for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Heaven is not just a place, but it's wherever there is the rule of God where sin and disobedience has not tainted it. We are asking that Our Father who rules in that space would bring the reality of heaven into the spaces that we are in. And we ask that God would use us and transform us so that we see more of heaven's reality in our families, our workplaces, our campuses, our friendships.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Icebreaker: When did you first learn the Lord's Prayer? Have you committed it to memory?

2

What does God as "Our Father" mean to you? Do any of the teaching points (intimacy, hope for deliverance, apprenticeship) stand out for you?

3

What does it look like for God's Kingdom to come and for His will to be done in the places you have influence?

4

Do you find yourself leaning more towards prayer or towards action? Why is both important?

5

Is there somewhere that you need to pray for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done in your life? Share and pray with one another.



BIG IDEA

Jesus taught His disciples to pray the Lord's Prayer. The implications of these prayers help us understand the paradigm of intimacy, of hope, of freedom. It reminds us that we are apprentices and are meant to be part of our Father's business. It is an invitation for God to work in and through us so that we see the reality of heaven invade our space.