

Meditation #11: Jesus' Model Prayer on Earth

What does it say?

STUDY: Matthew 6:1-15

GOLDEN TEXT: Matthew 6:10 = *Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

What does it mean?

We pray that God's will—his kingdom and authority—will be done on earth just as it is in heaven. This is how Jesus taught us to pray, in perhaps the most famous prayer model ever. From the beginning of his ministry, Jesus also taught that “the Kingdom of God is here.” At the first Christmas the wise Magi accurately recognized him as the King of the Jews. He is also the king of every ethnicity and of all the earth.

1. At the first Christmas was Mary also praying that the Lord's will be done? Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). How does Mary's prayer serve as a model of the best ways to celebrate Christmas?
2. How well is God's will followed in heaven? How much hesitation is there after God says what he wants? Do the heavenly beings please and honor the Creator? How often? What does God want us to do for the earth? Does praying “your will be done on earth” require also our fulfilling his requests, including improving and protecting the earth?
3. What does the word “as” mean here? Should God's authority mean one thing in heaven and something else on earth? Is it an honor to serve the Creator? To improve the creation?
4. In Matthew 10:7, after he taught this prayer, Jesus sent the Apostles out preaching that “the kingdom of heaven has come near.” In what sense was the kingdom near then? Is it nearer now? Does the reference to the kingdom imply something close or distant?

What are we going to do about it?

5. The sincerity of a person's requests is especially measured in terms of consistency with the person's behavior. When we pray that we want God's will done on earth, what might God be looking for in the way we relate to the earth the rest of the time?
6. How close does the kingdom have to be for us to act in its authority? How would we act if we believed that the fullness of God's authority was close? That God is watching us and even with us?
7. Some people think that they can continue to pollute and deplete the earth, since they think that Jesus will soon burn it all anyway. Even if they were right, does this avoidance of obeying Jesus please and honor him?

Truth To Celebrate: *Jesus preached concerning the Kingdom of God, and he comes back to the “Kingdom” issues repeatedly in his teachings. Obedience to him, as King of kings, always matters.*

Advent-Action: *With prayer, study your utility bills for the last three months, asking God for wisdom on how you can conserve energy—to save money and to benefit others on earth.*

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