

2010 Lenten Series: "Teach Us to Pray That We May Not Be Tempted"--Lord of Life, Westfield, IN – 3/3/10

Title: "Your Kingdom Come"

Text: John 18:33-37

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" Jesus said, "**My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.**" "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "**You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.**"

Intro: Video clip – "Peace on Earth"

What are we praying for when we say, "Thy kingdom come . . . on earth as it is in heaven"

• That God's powerful influence over the world (history, lives, nations, needs) would be carried out for his glory

1. **Illus.: Luther on praying for the kingdom in this world**

- That the Gospel spread to the whole world would lead to the salvation of the elect from every nation for Jesus' glory
- That Jesus would return and bring the kingdom of heaven and raise and gather all believers into the glory of heaven

Jesus in his passion, suffering, and death perfectly lived out the prayer he taught

• Jesus never grandstanded out of pride or self-preservation – he always sought the Father's glory/kingdom in his life

1. Refused to be pulled into a frivolous debate or a misuse of his power as the Son of God (**vs. 33-36**)

2. Are you willing to surrender your pride and your progress so that God's kingdom comes through you

• Jesus knew that his purpose was to bring the Kingdom of God to this world (**vs. 37**)

1. Luther understood that for us when we pray LP, it begins with letting God's kingdom come in our lives first

2. Are you willing to be jealous for God's kingdom, passionate for God's kingdom, willing to die for God's kingdom?

Understanding that bringing God's kingdom is not about warfare but about infiltration

• Surrendering our selfish agendas of religion and replacing them with God's kingdom goals in Christ

1. *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17*

2. Discovering the holiness, joy, and peace that only Jesus can bring and being done with the false goals of culture

3. Influencing others to join the Kingdom of God by living out that peace amongst them so that they thirst for it

• Practicing peace with each other because of what Jesus' death and resurrection bring to you

1. *For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility . . . and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. Ephesians 4:14, 16, 17*

2. Letting God's influence come into your personal world by practicing grace and forgiveness as if you were standing with that other person in the perfection of heaven.

a. **Illus.: We all need forgiveness**

Luther on Praying for the Kingdom

In "A Simple Way to Pray" (1535), Martin Luther advises his friend Peter to repeat and elaborate on each petition of the Lord's Prayer. For example, here is how the second petition, "Thy kingdom come," might be developed: Say: "O dear Lord, God and Father,

thou seest how worldly wisdom and reason not only profane thy name and ascribe the honor due to thee, to lies and to the Devil, but how they also take the power, might, wealth and glory which thou hast given them on earth for ruling the world, and thus serving thee, and use it in their own ambition to oppose thy kingdom. They are many and mighty; they plague and hinder the tiny flock of thy kingdom who are weak, despised, and few." "Convert them and defend us. Convert those who are still to become children and members of thy kingdom so that they with us and we with them may serve thee in thy kingdom in true faith and unfeigned love and that from thy kingdom which has begun, we may enter into thy eternal kingdom. Defend us against those who will not turn away their might and power from the destruction of thy kingdom, so that when they are cast down from their thrones and humbled, they will have to cease from their efforts. Amen." **Martin Luther--Later Years and Legacy," Christian History, no. 39.**

We All Need Forgiveness

During one Sunday school lesson, I was trying to teach the children that we all need God's forgiveness. After the story I quizzed one of the girls. "Lisa, when is a time you might need God's forgiveness?" Noticeably perplexed, Lisa was reassured by my son, who whispered, "It's okay, you don't have to tell her." Then he looked me straight in the eye and said, "We don't have to tell you our problems. This isn't the Oprah Winfrey show." Ranai Carlton, Waterford, California. Christian Reader, "Kids of the Kingdom."