

## **Thine is the Kingdom (Matthew 6:13c)**

### **Introduction:**

For the first time in this prayer we have repetition. Very little is repeated in the Lord's prayer. Nevertheless, we have already encountered: Thy Kingdom come. It is in the second line of the Lord's prayer. And here near the end, we again have the words Thine is the Kingdom.

### **1. Why the repetition?**

The importance of the Kingdom of God is emphasized by this repetition. In Matthew 6:33 Jesus says: **"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."** The kingdom of God should come first. We should make it our number one priority. In order to make it our first priority we first have to enter the Kingdom. How do we do that? Jesus tells Nicodemus how. He says: **"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again'" (John 3:7).** And also **"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).** In the Greek it literally says: Amen, amen, I tell you. When we are born again then the following verse applies to us.

**He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love (Colossians 1:13).**

When we seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, then it is clear that we are not trying to set up our own righteousness. It is His righteousness that we seek. Paul speaks of this in his letter to the Romans. **"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God" (Romans 10:3).** And in the next verse he says: **"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes" (Romans 10:4).** This is reiterated in Romans 10:10 with the words: **"For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."**

### **2. It is not a physical Kingdom**

All of this goes to show that the Kingdom of God is not a physical kingdom, but a spiritual kingdom. We have already examined the following scriptures which verify this.

**Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, "See here!" or "See there!" For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you (Luke 17:20-21).**

**For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men (Romans 14:17-18).**

**Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here” (John 18: 36).**

Since God’s kingdom is spiritual. Psalm 145:13 declares: **“Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.”** An everlasting kingdom is certainly not temporal.

And one more point. If God’s kingdom were physical and of this world, then flesh and blood could inherit it. But Paul says: **“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God nor does corruption inherit incorruption” (1 Corinthians 15:50).**

Since this last verse is speaking of our eternal home, it is evident that the Kingdom of God is both here on earth, since we can enter it now, and it is also in the future, since it is an inheritance we take possession of when we leave our earthly abode.

### 3. Synonyms.

In the Bible there are a number of synonyms for the kingdom of God. It is noteworthy that the term Kingdom of God is found in all 4 Gospels, however the synonym Kingdom of Heaven occurs only in Matthew. Matthew uses it 31 times. For example in Matthew 3:2 Jesus says: **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”** Mark has the same message but uses Kingdom of God, instead of Kingdom of heaven. He writes: **“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15).**

We have seen that in Colossians 1:13 this Kingdom is called the Kingdom of the Son. **He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.**

We are to pray for the Kingdom of God to come. When we can pray with all sincerity: “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” then the Kingdom of God has come into our lives. To pray thy Kingdom come means that we subject our will to the will of the Father. Recall the prayer of Jesus in Gethsemane. **“He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will’” (Matthew 26:39).**

Have you ever struggled to discern the will of God in your in your life? Have you ever prayed in earnest for God’s will to be done? When have you put God’s will first, in front of your own desires? Have you ever had a Gethsemane? Bill Gaither wrote the following song:

Have You Had a Gethsemane?

In the garden He went to pray  
when it seemed hope was gone.  
He prayed with a broken heart.  
And he prayed all alone.

Have you had a Gethsemane?  
Have you prayed in despair?  
In the dark of those weary hours  
did the Lord meet you there?

Have you had a Gethsemane?  
Have you prayed the night through?  
Have you shed tears in agony  
when no hope was in you?

Have you prayed, "If it is thy will  
May this cup pass from me?  
But if it's your will, dear Lord,  
I will bear it for thee?"

#### 4. Thine is the Kingdom

It is paramount to recognize that the Kingdom of God is His. It is not about us. It is about Him. Thus, when the disciples wanted to know who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus said: **"Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:4).** And again **"But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant" (Matthew 23:11).** Leadership in the Kingdom of God is servant leadership. The Kingdom of God is a theocracy, and we are led by the Holy Spirit.

Since it is God's Kingdom, God adds to the Kingdom. We read in Acts 2: 47b: **"And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."** And when the disciples came to Jesus and recounted to him that even the demons were subject to them in his name, he answered: **"Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20).** Therefore, we do not fear excommunication, be it from a Protestant bishop or from a Catholic pope because God has given all judgment to Jesus Christ himself. It is of Christ that we read: **"He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens" (Revelation 3:7).**

#### 5. What is the Kingdom of God like?

**The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field (Matthew 13:44).**

We need to go all out to obtain it. The joy of attaining it surpasses all else.

**It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened (Luke 13:21).**

It will permeate all we do and have. It is active even though it is unseen.

**Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it (Matthew 13:45-46).**

It is so valuable that all else combined is not as desirable as it is.

Other parables that Jesus used to describe the kingdom include the parable of the mustard seed (Matthew 13:31-32), the parable of the wheat and the tares (Matthew 13:24-30), the parable of a net cast into the sea (Matthew 13:47), the parable of the man traveling into a far country, who gave his servants talents to work with, while he was gone (Matthew 25:14), and the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1).

#### 6. What does Jesus expect of us?

First of all he wants us to strive and to enter the kingdom.

**Then one said to Him: Lord, are there few who are saved? And He said to them: Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able (Luke 13:23-24).**

Secondly, Jesus wants us to be faithful with what he has entrusted us with. (See Matthew 25: 14ff). A kingdom comes with a crown, not just for the king, but also for his heirs. We read in Revelation 2:10: **“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”** And finally we are to remember it is not our kingdom but God’s kingdom. That is why we are taught to pray: Thine is the Kingdom.

### Questions

1. Why is the kingdom of God mentioned a second time in this prayer?
2. How can we enter the Kingdom of God?
3. What does it mean to be born again?
4. What is the righteousness that is pleasing to God?
5. What does God’s Kingdom look like?
6. What are some synonyms for the Kingdom of God?
7. When has the Kingdom of God come into our lives?
8. Since the Kingdom belongs to God and not to us, what does that imply?
9. What is the Kingdom of God likened to?
10. What does Jesus expect of us?

