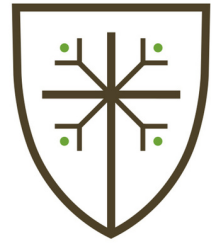


SERMON NOTES



The Lord's Prayer *Fall Sermon Series*

October 1, 2023

SERMON INFO

TITLE

Prayer's First Ask

PREACHER

Rev. Josh Keller

TEXTS

see page 2 for full texts

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the main causes of anxiety in your life?
How might beginning prayer with praise of God help to calm those fears?
2. What is one small way in which you see God bringing about his kingdom on earth through the daily lives of his kingdom people?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Tim's sermon focused on the next petition of the Lord's Prayer – "Thy Kingdom come." What does it mean and why does it matter?

Priority of Praise

As we've seen in the last two sermons, the Lord's Prayer gives us a framework for prayer. And part of that framework includes the order of prayer. Prayer begins with God, specifically with praising God. In last week's sermon, Josh talked to us about weightiness, that we all have something in our life that is weighty and draws everything else into its orbit. If that weightiness does not belong to God, we find ourselves mired in inordinate and persistent anxiety and fear. When we are told, or tell ourselves, over and over again that this one thing is what's most important, we are formed in the anxiety and fear of losing that thing. Beginning with praise of God in prayer is an antidote to this anxiety. Before we get to any petitions or requests about us, we must begin with praise.

Tim took us to the book of Job as an example of disordered prayer. Job suffers every catastrophic loss imaginable. And he asks God, "Why?" He rushes into God's presence and asks why this all happened and asks him to do something. Job's requests aren't wrong. Just in the wrong order. In his answer to Job, God reasserts the order that Jesus teaches us in the Lord's Prayer. And when Job begins again in praise and acknowledgment of who God is, all the self-focus and self-pity disappear. All our problems come from not starting with God and forgetting who he is. Praise gives God a weightiness in our soul that can't be moved.

Importance of the Kingdom

Part of our praise must be of God as King. Jesus never actually defines the kingdom in the Gospels. He talks about it in metaphor and parable. And this is because the kingdom of God is so much more than can be explained by a mere definition. The kingdom brings about a new world, new power, new rule. It brings the very presence of God. We need a new kingdom on earth. And we need a King who is making that kingdom good because he himself is good. "Thy kingdom come" is about restoring the world to the goodness and beauty that was lost. And the primary way through which God brings about his kingdom on earth is through his Church on earth. That Church is comprised of kingdom people spread across all parts of life. Because in a kingdom, every part matters – your job, school, family, friends. God's kingdom seeks to extend to that area of life in and through you.

God's kingdom has come and is coming in and through each of us.

SERMON TEXTS

From Job 38, 39, 40, 42

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:

2 "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

3 Dress for action like a man;

I will question you, and you make it known to me.

4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

5 Who determined its measurements—surely you know!...

12 "Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its place...

16 "Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?

31 "Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades
or loose the cords of Orion?

39:1 "Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?

Do you observe the calving of the does?

19 "Do you give the horse his might?

Do you clothe his neck with a mane?...

27 Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up
and makes his nest on high?

40:3 Then Job answered the Lord and said:

4 "Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you?

I lay my hand on my mouth.

5 I have spoken once, and I will not answer;
twice, but I will proceed no further."...

42:2 "I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted..."

5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;

6 therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes."

2 Timothy 4:1-2, 16-18

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching...

16 At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! 17 But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13, 24-25, 32-33; 13:31-32

Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

10 Your kingdom come,
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread,

12 and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ... 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

13:31 He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. 32 It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."