

Title: It's Not About Us

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-10

Main Idea: Kingdom prayer aligns with God's priorities.

Intro:

- Pattern to the grammar - These three pleas as passive imperatives – a desire for God to bring about the desired state of affairs

Transition/Coordinating Thought:

The model prayer breaks clearly and evenly into two parts based on the grammar. Just as the 10 commandments begin with those commandments that relate to God and then move to those that relate to us, so too does this model prayer begin with God and then moves to us. After acknowledging God's position as the One to whom we are appealing, the prayer first seeks alignment with God's priorities.

We see three priorities in the first half of this prayer.

1) God's Holiness

EXP:

- *"your name be honored as holy."* Lit. *hallowed be your name*
- "Name" in this context encompasses more than in our culture. It is a reference to the essence of the person, who God is at the core of his being – his nature, his character
- At his core, God is holy.
- The verb form of the noun *holiness* – ἁγιάζω^c: to feel reverence for or to honor as holy—'to hallow, to regard as holy, to honor as holy.' LN
- Ezek 36:22-23 ²² *"Therefore, say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Lord GOD says: It is not for your sake that I will act, house of Israel, but for my holy name, which you profaned among the nations where you went. ²³ I will honor the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations—the name you have profaned among them. The nations will know that I am the LORD—this is the declaration of the Lord GOD—when I demonstrate my holiness through you in their sight.*
- Holy is a very loaded word. Holy means that God is separate, set apart, consecrated, - it speaks to God's "otherness" in that He is not of this world and is in no way marred by the sin and effects of sin on this world; he is pure in character in every way

- The petition is not for God to become holy – He is already holy
- The petition is for God to be honored as He deserves to be honored because of his holiness
- “May it be kept sacred” both by God and by us
- In order for this to happen, our lives as his people need to come into alignment with his holiness so that his holiness might be revealed to others and they might then praise him because of his holiness

ILL:

- He must increase and I must decrease – we really like seeing our name in print and hearing our name being read or spoken in public

APP:

- It's not about our name, but about his name. Our name cannot save anyone.

2) God's Kingdom

EXP:

- *Your kingdom come.*
- Intro to the SM series addressed the subject of kingdom
- The arrival of a new kingdom was the central theme of Jesus' preaching.
- We described it
 - Distinct – not between believing communities but between believing and non-believing communities; it is distinct from earthly kingdoms
 - Spiritual – not a kingdom ushered in by human hands; is not a physical tangible kingdom; we fight spiritually and cannot be defeated
 - Mysterious – we depend on God: to see it, recognize it, and attain it
 - In-progress – we live with the mess of two kingdoms growing up together – the interesting aspect of this prayer is that it petitions God for his kingdom to come in finality, in such a way that it becomes THE kingdom
 - Active – is not of this world, but in every way is in this world and cannot not have an influence on this world
 - Priceless – worth it all

3) God's Will

EXP:

- *Your will be done*

- 2x components of God's will: sovereign/declared and moral
- Explicit statements re God's will in the Bible

We can know/discern God's will.

- Rom 12:2 *Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*
- Eph 1:9 *He made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he purposed in Christ*
- Eph 5:17 *So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*
- Col 1:9 *For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding*
- 2 Pet 1:21 *because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*
- 1 John 5:14 *This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*

God's will is for our salvation

- John 6:40 *For this is the will of my Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him will have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."*
- Gal 1:4 *who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father*
- Eph 1:5 *He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*
- Heb 10:10 (after quoting Psalm 40:6-8) *By this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time.*

God's will is for our sanctification

- 1 Thes 4:3-5 ³ *For this is God's will, your sanctification: that you keep away from sexual immorality,* ⁴ *that each of you knows how to control his own body in holiness and honor,* ⁵ *not with lustful passions, like the Gentiles, who don't know God.*

God's will is for us to be thankful

- 1 Thes 5:18 *give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

God's will is for us to give ourselves first to the Lord

- 2 Cor 8:5 *and not just as we had hoped. Instead, they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us by God's will*

God's will is for us to do good and thus silence the ignorance of foolish people

- 1 Pet 2:15 *For it is God's will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good.*

God guides us in his will

- Prov 16:9 *A person's heart plans his way, but the LORD determines his steps.*
- Proverbs 19:21 *Many plans are in a person's heart, but the LORD's decree will prevail.*

Concl:

- *on earth as it is in heaven*
- this captures the "already but not yet" aspect of these priorities
- It means that as we enter into prayer after remembering to whom we are praying, our gaze goes first heavenward before coming back to the things of this earth – before we ask for anything in the physical realm, we are reminded of the priority of the spiritual realm
- Jesus said "your sins are forgiven" before healing
- Before you appeal to God for anything, you must be set right with God. We cannot be aligned with God in any way without first dealing with that which has prevented our alignment all along – our sin