

Your Kingdom Come

Sermon June 6, 2021

Scripture Reading: Luke 19:1-10

Golden Verse: “*Your kingdom come.*” (Matthew 6:10)

Last Sunday, we examined the first request of The Lord’s Prayer: Hallowed be Thy Name. Today we will expand the second request of this prayer: “Thy Kingdom come, on earth, as it is in Heaven”.

In the original Greek text of the New Testament, this word “Kingdom” BASILEA, means: the Kingdom of God where God rules with love and goodness. Jesus, therefore, teaches that we ask that God’s Kingdom may be realized here on earth and may we all live according to God’s Kingdom’s rules as the angels follow God’s rules in heaven. May we all live on this earth in peace and love. May we all profess Him as Lord, honour Him as King, and humbly obey Him. This might be accomplished more and more on this earth as it is in heaven.

Today let us look at three aspects: how the Kingdom of God can come in our own personal lives, in us; how the Kingdom of God can be realized in this world through us, and how the Kingdom of God will come at the end of history, when God’s reign will be fully realized.

1) How can the Kingdom of God come in our own personal lives, in us?

This whole universe belongs to the Lord. He created, He possesses, and He governs. When Satan rebelled against God and deceived Adam and Eve, Satan persuaded us humans not to obey the King of the world, the almighty God, but to listen only to **ourselves**, to do only what **we** like and **to set aside God’s laws**.

When Adam and Eve withdrew from the royal rules of God, they believed the lie Satan told them that **they could be** their own master. But in the meantime, they became slaves of the devil, slaves of sin. After that, they lost their ability to obey God.

God does not want to force us to return to Him, but He is like the father of the prodigal son. He released his prodigal son, but waited for him and allowed his son to return.

The whole Scripture is telling us that Jesus Christ came into this world, as a good shepherd to search for God’s lost sheep and to take us back home. With His teaching, Jesus enables us to obey God, and to live as God’s children, following

God's rules. When Jesus first appeared in public, his very first sentence was: *"The time has come. The Kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"* (Mark 1:15) Jesus Christ opened the gates of the Kingdom of God and now we **can** return into God's Kingdom.

We know from the Bible that those who receive Jesus by faith and engage themselves to obey Him as the Lord of their lives, will receive power by the Holy Spirit to be joyfully obedient, and to enter with Christ into the Kingdom of God. Those who give their lives to Jesus will receive new hearts, and from inside they will know how to live as God's children. This is the most significant event of a human's life. This marks the beginning of a qualitatively new stage in the life of every believer.

How does this happen in a person's life?

We know the story of Zacchaeus. His story illustrates extremely well how a person can enter the Kingdom of God on earth, what the conditions are, and what the outcome of his action is.

Zacchaeus, as a tax collector, lived according to his own desire. He did not get rich honestly. Zacchaeus had a lot of money, but he had no peace. Once when Jesus entered his home, Zacchaeus began to feel uncomfortable near Jesus. It became clear to him that the stolen money and Jesus could not remain under the same roof. His bad conscious and Jesus both could not be accommodated in his heart. He wanted Jesus to stay in his life because Zacchaeus got special peace and comfort from Jesus that he didn't even know that existed. He missed that peace and comfort.

For this, Zacchaeus came up with his suggestion: Lord Jesus, those I remember I was cheating on, I will compensate them four times as much, as Moses' laws orders. And the rest of the money I have I will distribute to those who are the poorest.

Jesus said to him, *"Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."* (Luke 19:9-10)

What happened here? Zacchaeus renounced control of his own life, descended from the throne of his own heart. He said: From now on, Jesus, you are the Lord in my life. From now on, You tell me what to do, what is good and what is bad, and I will obey You faithfully.

Here, Zacchaeus begins to act according to God's law. In the Old Testament, it is written that whoever forcefully takes something from someone, must make up four times as much. Here, Zacchaeus imposed upon himself the most severe punishment according to God's command. Following God's word, I will compensate four times as much to those I have cheated money. From this moment, I want to live according to God's word.

Then Jesus says: "Today salvation has come to this house." At that moment, Zacchaeus entered the Kingdom of God on earth, and the royal power of God begun to prevail in his life. Zacchaeus became a citizen of a new country which was the Kingdom of God on earth.

Even today, the Kingdom of God prevails into those people's lives who receive Jesus by faith and begin to obey God and follow God's commandments. This is how we can enter today into the Kingdom of God on earth.

Just as the Apostle Paul rejoices, *"Blessed be God, ... the Father, who has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of the Son."* (Colossians 1:13-14)

Zacchaeus crossed the border. He entered the Kingdom of God, where he happily obeyed the law of God.

Let's ask ourselves:

- Are we already in God's Kingdom on earth?
- Have we entered the Kingdom of God?

That is for us to decide.

We all need to get to the point where we can say that, until now, **I have been** the king of my own life, but from now on **Christ should be** the king in my life. I want to obey the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is not only my Saviour who forgives my sins, but my Lord and King who commands and to whom I want to obey.

Christ Jesus and I cannot sit together on the throne of my heart. I must confess to the Lord Jesus every day: Lord Jesus, you are the king of my heart and You should rule in me. I will give you the throne in my life. This is what we have to tell Him every day.

If we have given our lives to the Lord, if we have entered the Kingdom of God on earth, the next question we must ask every day is: "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

Dear beloved, this is a serious decision that we need to make, and then the miracles in our lives will begin. If we give Christ the throne in our lives, He will lead us, and we will see how God can bless His children.

Let us hand over our own control about our own lives to God, who alone can lead us correctly. This means personally Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

2) How can the Kingdom of God be realized in this world through us?

The Lord's dominion must be evident in the lives of His followers.

Praying, "Thy Kingdom come," means asking the heavenly Father to help us in our own lives to be faithful, obedient, authentic, and effective Christians. We spread God's Kingdom not only with words but also through our actions and the observable qualities of our character.

Those, who entered the Kingdom of God on earth, immediately should begin to spread the good news of God's Kingdom. They will talk to others about God's goodness and will invite others to join them. Therefore, they talk about God and His Kingdom to others.

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 3:15

This should be our daily prayer: Lord, there is always a dark corner, where I can bring light. Lord, use me to spread the good news of Your Kingdom, and please spread your Light through me. Lord, Your Kingdom come on earth, as it is in Heaven.

As we pray this, let us remember the missionaries, the preachers, and our nonbeliever relatives, that the Kingdom of God may be established on earth through us.

"Dear Lord, please open the hearts of my loved ones, friends, co-workers, and neighbours to receive Your gift of salvation in Jesus Christ." God's Kingdom will expand as more people turn to Christ for salvation. They enter the Kingdom when they come to know the crucified King of that Kingdom. People need the gospel.

3) How will the Kingdom of God come at the end of history, when God's reign is fully realized?

So far, a lot of blood and tears are flowing on this earth. We pray that “Your Kingdom Come” and let it be realized.

When we pray “Your Kingdom come”, **Jesus lifts up our eyes and allows us to see the end of this world**, when this earth will fall in pieces and will burn in fire, and God’s new and everlasting Kingdom will replace it.

That will be a new beginning of a new world.

God’s love is greater than human hatred. The time will come when God will replace this earth with a new one. There will be a new Kingdom, where *“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”* Revelation 21: 4-5.

Please remember, every time when you will pray: “Thy Kingdom come,” you will pray that you have a deep desire for His sovereign rule over your life here on earth, and you will submit to His authority and yield to His control in every aspect of your existence. Likewise, praying, “Thy Kingdom come,” means you earnestly yearn for God’s reign to be established throughout the whole earth and over every human being. We pray, “Thy Kingdom come,” so that God’s sovereign rule will come now and in the future in its fullness and permanence.

“Your Kingdom come.” This is the cry of the believers around the world.

The same is said at the end of the book of Revelation: *“Come, Lord Jesus.”*
Revelations 22:20

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.” (Revelations 22:12-14)

Jesus Christ’s Return, His “Second Coming” is central to Christianity. Billions are waiting for it. Those who know God know that Jesus **IS** returning. Every indicator suggests His second coming cannot be far away. The Bible speaks extensively about HOW Jesus will establish the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven.

Dear beloved, for you and for me few things could be more important. Let us be ready.

Let us summarize and internalize God's message: did we already pass the border of His Kingdom, and do we live in His Kingdom, following His rules and regulations?

Secondly, are we working to bring the good news of His Kingdom into the lives of as many people as possible, to get to know Him, and do we invite them to enter the Kingdom of God on earth?

Finally, do we have this certain hope that one day we will be taken to the Kingdom of God and be together in the Kingdom of the Lord, where we will have full joy? Therefore, let us be grateful. Amen.