

## God's Kingdom

Sermon May 30, 2021

GOLDEN VERSE: “*Your kingdom come.*” Matthew 6:10

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 24:1-10

As we started to study the Lord's Prayer, we learned that God, the Creator of heaven and earth, in Christ Jesus, made us His children and, for this, we have the privilege to call Him Our Loving and Caring Heavenly Father. As God's children, here at Calvin, we are a family, surrounded by sisters and brothers. This is the foundation of our prayer.

As we pray The Lord's Prayer, we present six very special requests. In the first three, we focus on God and His glory: “Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done”. These three prayer requests are followed by a phrase, “on earth as it is in heaven”. This phrase belongs to all three requests: Hallowed be Thy name on earth as it is in heaven; Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Now let us focus on the first one: Hallowed be Thy name on earth as it is in heaven.

### **What does this mean: “hallowed be” or “sanctified be” Your name?**

God's name in the Bible is JHWH. When God explained His own name, He introduced Himself saying “I am who I am”. I am the same today as I was always, and I will be the same forever. His power, His love and His purity make God HOLY.

In Isaiah 6, we read about the prophet's vision.

*I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: with two wings they covered their faces ... And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”*  
Isaiah 6:1-3

Those who are around God in His glory bow their heads and their whole bodies and cover their eyes because God is so holy that they cannot even look at Him. His greatness and holiness intend us to worship Him. His holiness forces us to go on our knees, humbling ourselves. This is a fearful joy and a joyful fear. God's holiness is impacting them to go on their knees in God's presence.

When the Israelites read the Torah – today we would call the Bible – and they reached the Lord’s name JHWH, they showed so much respect towards His name, that they did not allow themselves to pronounce His name, but they either paused, or they replaced it saying ADONAJ, which means GOD, or ELOHIM, the ONE true God.

Today, the New Hebrew Bible replaced The Lord’s name with HE or HIM: He, the HOLY ONE, who is our creator, who is above all.

Hallowed be Thy name – does not mean that God’s name should be more holy, but it means that it should be as much sanctified on earth as it is sanctified in heaven.

### **What is the meaning of holy or holiness?**

In the Bible’s terminology, holy is anything that is set aside for a specific purpose. Holy is anything which is distinguished from the profane, the commonly used, the usual. The Bible talks about holy goblets and holy plates and dishes which were used only in the temple of Jerusalem and were used only for the ceremonies as they worshipped God. Those were the same as other vessels but were holy because they were consecrated to be used in the service for God. The goblet and plates we use here at Calvin for our communion are sacred vessels for me and for us. We would not use them during our dinner, because they are consecrated for communion, when we worship GOD.

In the Bible, there is a story about Belshazzar, the King of Babylon, who had stolen the sacred vessels from the temple of Jerusalem, and used them drinking wine during his parties. By doing so, he desecrated them because they were set aside for worship use. That is why they were holy. Otherwise, they looked the same as the others, but what set them apart from the others was that they could only be used for God’s purposes.

In the Bible, also, we read about sacred time when people separated that time to worship the Most Holy.

### **How can we sanctify our Heavenly Father’s name?**

God is quite different from us and therefore holy. He is free from all that is filthy, unclean, worldly. He is free from all sin, pure, and spotless. This is why God is glorified in heaven and should be glorified on earth as it is in heaven. Those who have recognized that the Lord is holy feel that they have a duty and an opportunity to bear witness to this, to live accordingly.

We sanctify His name if we speak about the Lord so authentically that people would see in us the Living God's love and they come closer to God.

We have to be very careful not to desecrate God's name.

### **How can His name be desecrated?**

The third commandment reminds us NOT to desecrate God's holy name. But, sadly, people often desecrated God's name with their speech, or swearing, or using God's or The Lord Jesus Christ's name in vain. And this is against His holiness. We should take the Lord's name on our lips only in a sacred way when we pray, and we should speak about the Lord with deep respect. We should lovingly warn each other whenever they take the Lord's name on their lips in a non-sacred way.

As we are connected to the Lord, we should allow Him to make constant changes in us with His word and with the Holy Spirit, so people should see God's love in us.

Once, a person said: "My neighbour is a church goer, but he is a terrible neighbour." If we don't allow God to shape us and mold us, then we might send a false message towards other people, and this way we desecrate his name. Somebody said that these days it is not the non-believers who desecrate God's holy name, but the unfaithful Christians.

### **How could the holiness of God shine in our lives?**

Dear beloved, our call is to show God's holiness in this world with our words and actions. When we pray, we should ask our God to penetrate our hearts and to work in us by living His holiness, so we would show through our daily appearance that for us God is holy, and we sanctify His holy name.

Sunday is a holy day according to God's command, and we have to sanctify it. What does this mean practically for us? The church is a holy place and worship is a holy time because here we meet our Holy God, and He talks to us through His words.

Every Saturday evening, my parents and grandparents told us to prepare our suits, shirts and ties for Sunday morning, and they gave us money for collection. The whole family prepared themselves to show up into the presence of our Holy God.

As we worship, our Lord fills us with His holiness. Then, the holiness works from the inside out. Let God's name be sanctified in us and through us.

Every time from now on, when we pray the Lord's Prayer and we pray "Hallowed be Thy name", we should insert these two words: IN ME and THROUGH ME.

The Bible says that when we worship Him, when we confess to Him, when our lives point to God and we lead others to God, then we spread His holiness.

When we worship God with songs and prayers, we sanctify His holy name. For this, we should not only run to God with our requests but we should more and more often worship Him.

Some people consider that attending a church service, and spending an hour there, is a waste of time. Some people say that they can worship God in many ways and they don't have to go to a church service. I am not saying that they are wrong. We can worship and glorify God for His holiness everywhere and any time. But the joy and happiness we experience when we worship together cannot be compared to anything.

Once, somebody said that he wanted to glorify God's name, but didn't know what to say to Him. Dear beloved, if we are aware of who He really is, and if we come to a personal faith, then we will be able to confess who He is. We will rejoice as we list God's gifts in our lives we have received so far. Our hearts will pour out in worship and thanksgiving. We can do this in front of others, so they see who God is for us and how we give Him thanks, sanctifying His holy name.

Let's not be afraid to tell the truth of what we know about our Loving Heavenly Father.

May His Holy Spirit fill us with holiness so we should hallow the Lord's name with words and actions. Amen