



THEME: CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Bible Study 7 :Answered Prayer – “ Thy Kingdom Come”

INTRODUCTION When we come to the place of prayer we need to understand that the Lord we pray to is the Lord of Lord's and King of Kings. Scripture declares that Jesus is King of the Kingdom of God and that this Kingdom is at work in the world today. When we come to the place of prayer we need to understand that God IS working out His Kingdom purposes in this world today as He establishes His Kingdom rule in the hearts and lives of people. Part of learning to pray effectively is to pray in line with the Lord's Kingdom purposes and desire that His rule will be manifest and extended here on earth as His will is done. Jesus Himself in Matthew 6 verse 10 taught His disciples to pray “ THY KINGDOM COME, they will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

DISCUSS – What do you think the Kingdom of God is?

Why do you think Christians need to pray in line with Kingdom purposes?

How do you think we can discover something of what those Kingdom purposes are ?

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS– Psalm 47, Psalm 103 v 19 – 22, Matthew 4 v 17, Matthew 12 v 22 – 28, Matthew 25 v 31 – 34

TEACHING SLOT – God's Kingdom and our response.

As God's people we need to understand that the bible declares that God as mighty Creator and Sustainer of all things in heaven and on earth. But alongside of this general reign of God we discover that God also specifically reigns over His covenant people. This includes both Israel and also those who have come into covenant relationship through personal faith in the Messiah Jesus. Through this opening up of God's Kingdom reign in the lives of all people from every nation under heaven through Jesus, God has fulfilled His promise to Abram that all the nations and families of the world will be blessed through Him. (See Genesis 12 v 1 – 3)

The reason that this is important to us in prayer is because as God's people we have committed ourselves to see God's Kingdom reign come here on earth. By making Jesus Lord of our lives we are declaring that we want His Kingdom purposes and rule to be fulfilled within our lives, churches and nation. THEREFORE when we come to the place of prayer we are seeking to understand what the Lord wants to do in situations and pray in line with His will and purposes. We are not trying to twist God's arm to do what we want, rather by the guidance of the Holy Spirit we are praying that what will deepen and widen His kingdom here on earth will be made manifest. It is perfectly possible for us as people to find ourselves praying against God's set Kingdom purposes and plans. Where this happens whatever our faith levels we move into a place of unanswered prayer.

DISCUSS – Do you think that most Christians understand that the Christian life is lived for God Kingdom purposes ?

How do you think we can learn to separate our agenda from God's so that in pray and mission we do what the Lord wants?

TEACHING SLOT – Future but also present with us.

When we look at the Kingdom of God we need to understand that this Kingdom that we speak of is a spiritual kingdom. In our world today God's personal reign is made manifest in the hearts and lives of His people. How much we enthrone Jesus at the centre of our lives and churches directs how much His reign is made manifest over us in a personal way. This spiritual kingdom of the present is set up in our lives and His grace and laws are written into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. What is being declared here is that the visible Kingdom of God is arriving in successive stages or instalments. It is understand that these stages are 1) The period of Christ's earthly ministry. 2) the period from his exaltation to His return. (the time of the church) C) the period beyond His return. Scripture declares there will be a time in the future when all of creation will see the visible reign of the Jesus and every knee will bow before Him. There will be a time when Jesus will come again and gather His people to Himself (Matthew 24 v 29 – 31, Philippians 3 v 20 –21). There will be a time when God will in every sense make His home amongst us and we will live with Him (Read Revelation 21 v 1 – 8) . At this time all of creation will come visibly under the domain of the Lord Jesus.

But for now the reign of God is manifested in the lives of His people and He calls us to seek and work for His Kingdom purposes here on earth. Prayer is one of those ways that we use our faith to pray into existence the work, purposes and kingdom of God over situations, people and circumstances. The prayer that “His Kingdom come,” is one that we are called to enthrone in our desires, ambitions and passions. That we genuinely desire His will and purpose, that we care for the advancement of His Kingdom and that we are willing to spend our lives in whatever mission field the Lord chooses in praying His rule will influence the hearts and minds of all. In every sense we must agree and sympathise with the plans and purposes of God for His creation, for this generation and actively seek to seem them come into reality. We do all of this because we love the Jesus the King of Kings and Lord of Lord. We do all of this because His desires become our desires as we enthrone Him in our hearts.

TEACHING SLOT – Where heart and intention meet there is answered prayer.

At the heart of Kingdom praying is the real desire to deny self and lay all on the alter. What is meant by this is that if we are truly living under the Lordship of Christ we will make it our interest, our joy and our delight to put aside our own needs and seek after the things of the Kingdom. (Matthew 16 v 24 – 28) This intention is not just manifested in praying, but in living and serving the purposes of God with joy and passion showing the Lord that we are prepared for Him to use our lives and resources for His greater good. (Matthew 21 v 28 – 32) It may be that our lives are indeed the material that Jesus uses to answer the prayers both on our own lips and on the lips of other saints. When the Lord sees that in our actions as well as in our intentions that we are putting His Kingdom purposes first it is then that we move towards the blessing of answered prayer. (Matthew 6 v 33 –34) As Christians there is no room for complacency for the Lord for integrity to be made manifest in our heart and in our actions if He will lead and entrust us with the blessing and anointing of answered prayer. In a real sense Prayer is about educating our hearts, minds and spirits in the purposes of God and through the Holy Spirit our lives coming in line with His direction and praying in line with his plan and processes. As we do this more and more we are lead by the Spirit into deeper revelations of His will and purposes and this in turn informs our prayers.