

Lord's Prayer 3 "Thy Kingdom, Thy Will"

1. Prayer re-establishes our hearts true orbit, re-centers all of life around God. What do the first three lines of the Lord's prayer tell us about how we re-establish our hearts true orbit?

Our Father in heaven. We must first begin by recalling who God is for if we are in a muddle about God we will be in a muddle about prayer. In this we recall his fatherly love and mercy toward us. In this we recall his power over all things. In this we recall that he is not way way up there – but all around – close at hand. In this we recall his holiness, that all of his attributes are wholly other than we can possibly imagine.

Hallowed be your name. We must respond rightly to who he is in worship, in worth ship – seeing what he is worth and giving him what he is worth. We were made to worship, and if we are not worshipping, hallowing the living God we will hallow him, her, career, money, status recognition – any number of other things.

Your Kingdom Your will – we reorient ourselves to his plan and purposes for our world – and submit to his reign in us.

2. Out of that true orbit we are to make our requests – “give us this day”. What do our present requests in prayer tell us about our hearts current orbit?

This requires a little bit of personal reflection. In the sermon Tim spoke about his prayers revealing that his true orbit, the things his life revolved around was his comfort – having things in life “just so”.

There could be many things our life orbits around – there is probably something that we desire above everything else. Marriage, family, recognition, a way to use our gifts, to be known, loved, appreciated...

Because this involves a bit of reflection and risking transparency – it would be good for you as a leader to think ahead of time so you can chart the course – your vulnerability will invite others to be open and

vulnerable – not for vulnerability sake but for mutual support, encouragement, and accountability.

3. How does it change your view and practice of prayer to know that all of the verbs in the Lord's prayer are in the imperative – they are not requests they are commands? (Note: They are in the passive imperative meaning that we are commanding the only one that can bring those things about)

As with every reflection questions there may be many responses to this question. If there is a lack of thoughts shared perhaps sparking the conversation with...

- *Not sure I can pray that way – seems like the wrong way to pray as creature to creator*
- *This undercuts two errors.*
 1. *That we are responsible to bring in the kingdom for God – no he does it for us – it is only he that can do it.*
 2. *God is sovereign, so God is going to do what God is going to do – but he wouldn't invite us to pray this way unless our prayers were effectual, they had impact, they changed the course of human history.*
- *Builds confidence in prayer – I know how to pray in a way that pleases God.*
- *Other...*

4. One of the most counter cultural things we can pray is – your will be done – as we give ourselves completely over to God. Why is this so difficult for us to pray?

We are so suspicious of authority – no one has the right to tell me how to live.

It puts the major question on the table – can he be trusted? Now we have to go back to his character – our Father in Heaven.

What if God asks me to go where I don't want to go, to do what I don't want to do, to give up what I don't want to give up?

5. What impact does it have on our view and practice of prayer to know that God's will, as Elisabeth Elliot put it, is "infinitely, immeasurably, unspeakably beyond my largest notion of what he is up to"?

We want God to satisfy our wisdom, our sense of what is good for us. We want to see how what he wills and allows in our lives is actually best for us and for our world. This invites us to consider that we don't have the slightest clue as to how the world fits together.

It humbles us. It brings us to a place where we can say – I may not understand it – I may not like it – I may grieve in the midst of it – but I lay it all down for you.

Again it pushes us to ask – can I trust him – which brings us back to recalling his character – our father in heaven.

6. What impact does it have on our view and practice of prayer to know that in the garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed this prayer for us – your will be done?

He laid down all for us so that everything that he won is ours, we are heirs of everything Jesus has won for us. We are laying down our wills animated by a hope that when all things come under the reign of Jesus they get healed, they flourish, they become everything they were intended to be.

In a sense Jesus' heart was orbiting around us, around the world that he loved in this prayer, he was laying down every aspect of his life for us. We are then freed to lay down our lives for him, to reorient our lives around his will and purpose for our world.