

# 1

## GOD'S PRIORITY: HIS KINGDOM COME

*After this manner therefore pray ye:  
Our Father Which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever. Amen. (Matt 6:9-13)*

**The Kingdom of God is so important that Jesus made it His priority prayer.** It was the first thing He taught His disciples to pray for – “Thy kingdom come” (vs 10).

To Jesus, praying for the Kingdom of God to come is even more important than praying for God’s provision of daily bread (vs 11), God’s forgiveness (vs 12) and power over Satan (vs 13).

**In fact, Jesus’ entire ministry on earth was centred on the Kingdom.** He began by preaching about the Kingdom and continued to teach His disciples about the Kingdom even during the forty days before He ascended to heaven.

THY KINGDOM COME!

*From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matt 4:17)*

*To whom also He shewed himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and **speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.** (Acts 1:3)*

Even His forerunner, John the Baptist, had prepared His way before Him by preaching about the Kingdom.

*In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,*

*And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matt 3:1-2)*

Jesus knew that as the Son of the Most High God, He had specifically been sent to establish His Father's Kingdom on earth. **His mission was to preach the Kingdom of God wherever He went.**

*And He said unto them, **I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.** (Luke 4:43)*

*And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and **preaching the gospel of the kingdom,** and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. (Matt 4:23)*

*And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and **preaching the gospel of the kingdom,** and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. (Matt 9:35)*

*Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,***

*And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. (Mark 1:14, 15)*

*And it came to pass afterward, that He went throughout every city and village, **preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the***

**kingdom of God: and the twelve were with Him. (Luke 8:1)**

*And the people, when they knew it, followed Him: and He received them, and **spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing. (Luke 9:11)***

**Just as Jesus Himself preached the Kingdom and demonstrated its power, He commissioned His disciples to do the same.** They were not only to preach a message, they were to present the Kingdom of God to the people. He gave them power, then He sent them out.

*And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, **He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. (Matt 10:1)***

*And as ye go, **preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.***

*Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. (Matt 10:7, 8)*

*Then He called his twelve disciples together, **and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.***

*And He sent them to **preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.***

*And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where. (Luke 9:1-2, 6)*

*After these things the LORD appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before His face into every city and place, whither He himself would come.*

*And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, **The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. (Luke 10:1, 9)***

The early church understood their calling and did the same.

*But when they believed Philip **preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. (Acts 8:12)***

Barnabas and Paul strengthened “...the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘We must through many tribulations enter **the kingdom of God**’” (Acts 14:22, NKJV).

*And he (Paul) went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, **disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.** (Acts 19:8)*

***Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him** (Paul). (Acts 28:31)*

Jesus always talked in terms of the Kingdom. For example, 19 out of the 40 parables that Jesus taught were about the Kingdom of God (the Kingdom of Heaven). He made sure His disciples understood this kingdom that they represented.

He expected them to “seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness” (Matt 6:33a). And He made high demands on those who would follow Him.

*And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto Him, Lord, I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest.*

*And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head.*

*And He said unto another, Follow Me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.*

*Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: **but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.***

*And another also said, Lord, I will follow Thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.*

*And Jesus said unto him, **No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.** (Luke 9:57-62)*

**The gospel of the Kingdom of God is so important that we have to give it top priority and put it above all**

**legitimate earthly interests.** It is freely given to us but we must not forget that Jesus, the Son of God, paid for it with His own blood.

**The gospel of the Kingdom involves saving lives and it is urgent.** The perishing souls of men and women need to hear its message. They too can be rescued from the clutches of Satan and delivered from death and hell to receive the love of God and enjoy the Kingdom of life.