

## **Sermon Series: The Lord's Prayer, Jesus' School of Prayer**

### **Week 4 – The Second Petition- Your Kingdom Come (Matthew 6.10)**

1. What kinds of experiences in the world lead us to long for God to display his power and save his people?
2. The God of the Bible is presented as the God with almighty power and authority in his hands. Yet by a great mystery enemies, powers, have entered into creation bringing decay and evil. What are the two enemies of human freedom described in Genesis 3?
3. On the most basic level, the kingdom of God is God's saving reign intervening to deliver his people from all that enslaves. The kingdom of God is God, by his mighty power, saving us from the power and work of the enemies that entered in Genesis chapter 3.

What good news, then, does Jesus bring in Matthew 4.17?

4. Read Matthew 4.23-25. Now answer the question: Where is God's kingdom?
5. Now we consider the three captivities that King Jesus saves his people from. Choose one of the following three options to reflect upon.

**(I) Captivity to lies: we are delivered by faith as we embrace new truths about Jesus and ourselves, and shed old lies.**

What new truths does a proud religious hypocrite have to embrace in order to taste Jesus' salvation? And what lies need they shed?

What new truths does an immoral tax-collector or worshipper of other gods need to embrace? And what lies need they shed?

(See Luke 18.9-14)

**(II) Captivity to the evil one: the evil one is active to draw us from God and his Son Jesus. He has five characteristic strategies to achieve this aim: demon possession; temptation (see Matthew 4.1-11); accusation (hence his name Satan, the 'adversary' or 'accuser'); deception (Matthew 13.19); and physical attack (Matthew 9.32-34 see also Job 1 and 2).**

While demon possession is more obvious if we are unfortunate enough to encounter it, the other four strategies can be harder to detect.

What signs might there be that the evil one is particularly at work, within an experience of:

temptation

accusation

deception

physical attack (illness, accident, injury)

### **(III) Captivity to decay and death**

Jesus' ministry was littered with healing. The Apostles continued Christ's ministry in the book of Acts, and healings occasionally accompanied their proclamation (eg. Acts 3). While we don't have the same authority as the Apostles, the Bible still encourages the church to pray for healing in Jesus' name (see James 5.13-16). We are meant to understand that Risen Jesus is still stretching out his hand to heal, through the church.

How can we ensure that ministry of healing points beyond us to the love and power of the healer?

Can we promise immediate physical healing in every case? Why/Why not?

6. The kingdom of God arrived in the person of Jesus, but in what great work does God's reign manifest above all? What is the climax to Matthew's Gospel?

7. Spend some time praising God for breaking the power of sin, decay and evil by the death and resurrection of Jesus.

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