



# Your kingdom come

Third in a five-part series on  
the Lord's Prayer

By Tim Hanley

I have a confession to make. Judas Iscariot and I share the same shameful sin. My sin has stained my life for more than 30 years, while Judas only carried his for three. Let me explain. You may remember Judas was one of the twelve disciples Jesus chose for His inner circle. For three years, the Lord Jesus loved, trained, and delegated authority and power to him. He even extended incredible grace by giving him the place of honor at the Lord's right hand during the Last Supper. In contrast, Judas only used Jesus for the purpose of building his own kingdom. Judas defrauded the Lord by using Him and betraying Him. He turned Him over to the religious leaders in order to build his own little kingdom, based on his own little agenda, for his own little glory. As I look back over the last 30 years of my ministry, in some ways I am no different. I have defrauded my Lord by using Him and ultimately betraying Him to build my own little kingdom, based on my own little agenda, for my own little glory.

This horrific commitment to my own kingdom-building was exposed repeatedly. I used to explode in rage or sink into depression when others would not follow my plans. I would shoot out nasty e-mails to church leaders who refused to come to my prayer meetings. I would pressure and manipulate and even castigate my own family members into following my own dreams. I left a lot of corpses behind in my kingdom-building. It was only when I saw the horrible consequences in my own family and in the lives of others that I was broken and came to the Cross crying out for forgiveness and cleansing. The only difference between Judas and me is that I am forgiven – declared right before God – and a son of the King.

In Luke 11, the passage commonly known as the Lord's Prayer, Jesus tells us to call God our Father, Daddy, and to wholeheartedly worship Him because His name is holy. He also invites us to cry out, "Your Kingdom come" (Luke 11:2). Note the word "Your." King Jesus reigns over the entire universe. He is the Creator, Sustainer, Provider, and Sovereign over all of creation. Abraham Kyuper, a Dutch statesman and theologian from the early 20th century, states, "In the total expanse of human life there is not a single square inch of which the Christ, who alone is sovereign, does not declare, "That is mine!" It is all His Kingdom, and He reigns and rules over it all.

The "Kingdom," then, is simply the reign and rule of King Jesus. The King created Adam and Eve, and gave them authority to rule His kingdom in the Garden of Eden. Satan deceived Adam and Eve into committing high treason by betraying the King and joining the kingdom of darkness. Ever since then, every one of us has sought to build our own little kingdoms, based on our own little agendas, for our own little glories. Our hearts became poisonous and desperately sick as we rebelled against every one of the King's Commandments (Jeremiah 17:9; Exodus 20:2-17). Our record before the King became polluted with every kind of wickedness we could generate (Isaiah 64:6; Rom 3:11-12). Our lives became powerless and spiritually dead as we sought to find life in every idol we could create (Ephesians 2:1-3; Jeremiah 2:13). The result was a rebellious kingdom filled with people who had poisonous hearts, polluted records and powerless lives destined for hell (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Matthew 25:46). Each of us stands guilty before the holy and perfect King.

This is a pretty bleak picture. Sadly, it gets worse. The King commands us to get a heart transplant, clean up our polluted records, and get a new and powerful life (Ezekiel 18:31), but no matter how we try, we fail—utterly.

Our miserable failure is why the King had to come as the perfect God-Man. King Jesus came to restore His kingdom's reign and rule in the hearts and lives of His rebellious, hell-bent subjects. On earth, He lived in perfect obedience to His Father with a perfect heart, a perfect record, and a perfect life. Jesus knew the only way His kingdom would come into the hearts and lives of His people was through His death on a Roman cross. So He died bearing our poisonous hearts, polluted records, and powerless lives, and He cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me" (Matthew 27:46). The Father turned His back on His own Son on that cruel cross, and King Jesus became the greatest traitor of all in the place of a traitorous and rebellious people: you and I.

This is the reason why the first words of Jesus as He began His public ministry were, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). His kingdom is only established in the lives of people who die to themselves by repenting of their hideous sins and trust His perfect life, death, and resurrection. His last words to five of His churches in Revelation 3 and 4 are, "Repent and believe the gospel."

No matter where you are on your spiritual journey today, King Jesus invites you to come and die to your agenda of building your little kingdom, based on your own little agenda, for your own little glory, and believe He paid it all for you. What is the result? He gives you His pure heart, His perfect record, and His powerful life (Ezekiel 36:25-27). He invites you daily to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Him (Luke 9:23). Only as we die to ourselves daily by surrendering to our King's will does the King's reign and rule come in our lives and advance in this world.

I often wonder why there is so little kingdom coming in my own life. I think it is because I fail to believe that I have the King's heart, the King's record, and the King's life living in me through the Holy Spirit. I refuse to die daily to my own little kingdom-building and live for His Kingdom. I am a bigger mess than I can imagine, but I pray each day for His kingdom to come in my own life. And it does. I claim the promise that the King will complete the work of grace He has begun in me. (Philippians 1:6). **ROC**

If you would like to join other believers committed to revival in Christ's Kingdom, I encourage you to join us on Sunday, April 29 at 3 PM at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center for the 2012 Greater Columbia/Midlands Global Day of Prayer.



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