

Reflection Questions: Matthew 6:5-13

For the message, "Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on March 24, 2019

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to ask God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Matthew 6:5-13

5 "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **6** But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. **8** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **9** Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread,

12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

A summary of the message: We were meant to thrive in the perfect freedom of being in sync with our Father's heart. But with the rebellion of humanity, we seek our own wills and our own kingdoms. Jesus came on a rescue mission to bring us back in line with our design, desiring our Father's kingdom and will.

Key Quotes:

- Woody Allen, "The heart wants what the heart wants."
- Eugene Peterson, "The kingdom of self is heavily defended territory."
- Jesus, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me" (John 4:34).
- CS Lewis, "There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says in the end, 'Thy will be done.'"
- The Apostle Paul, "...he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised," (2 Corinthians 5:15).
- Jesus, "For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him should have eternal life" (John 6:40).
- Tim Keller, "Unless we are profoundly certain God is our Father, we will never be able to say, 'Thy will be done.'"

Bottom Line:

- To pray, "Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," is to ask for the reign of God to become real both in our lives and in our world just as it is in heaven.

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- In what areas of your life do you find it easy to desire and trust God's will for you? In what areas do you find it difficult?
- Pastor and author Tim Keller writes, "Unless we are profoundly certain God is our Father, we will never be able to say, "Thy will be done." Why do you think he says this? Do you agree with him? Explain.
- How does this prayer, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," help me to understand the good news of Jesus? In other words, how does it help us to understand what Jesus wants to see happen in our lives?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- How does this text help us to understand the kind of church we want MHC to be? In other words, if MHC were a community of faith that truly desired God's kingdom and truly desired God's will to be done, how would we know?
- Jesus obviously thinks that this petition should be a key priority in our lives? What happens to a church when it ceases to be a priority? What other agendas fill the vacuum?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- What does this mean for us as we live out our faith in the city? In other words, what does God want to do not merely for us or in us, but through us for the sake of our city?
- How does this text help us understand God's mission in our city?
- How would Bryan/College Station look radically different if everybody prayed and truly desired what Jesus describes in this key petition of the prayer?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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- _____
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