



Honest to God

A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

Session 5 – Your Kingdom Come

On June 6, 1944, the Allied Forces invaded German troops on the coast of Normandy, France. The D-Day invasion signaled the beginning of the end of World War II. There were more battles to be fought, but Hitler's defeat was sealed. Victory would come and Europe would be liberated.

When Jesus went to the cross, it was D-Day for the kingdom of God. Sin and death were defeated and the devil now fights a losing battle. We live in the "now" of Christ's reign in our lives and look forward to the "not yet," when Jesus returns to establish His kingdom on earth. In the meantime, there are battles to fight and captives to be set free.

Goals for this Session:

- Discover how to live and look forward to the Lord's return.
- Consider the ways we can be salt and light in today's culture.
- Examine who and what we live for.
- Pray honest prayers to spread good news and hold steady with hope.

Ice Breaker

Can you think of a recent answer to prayer that took you completely by surprise?

Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 5:1–12** and **Luke 8:4–15** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

Day Two – Your Kingdom Come, My Kingdom Go

Read Matthew 5:1–12.

When we pray, “Your kingdom come,” we are praying for God to reign in us, here and now, as we live and look forward to the day when Jesus returns.

1. In Luke’s account of the Beatitudes, Jesus contrasts the blessings of living for God’s kingdom with the sorrows of living only for this world (see Luke 6:24–26). It’s as though Jesus is asking, what do you most want out of life? Woe—*alas, how sad for you*—if this is what you make your life about. Are these the same things that people live for today? In what way?

2. What does following Jesus mean for every individual, whatever our ordinary life and daily routine may be?

Matthew 16:24–25

John 14:21

John 15:16

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

**You can’t pray, “Your kingdom come”
until you are prepared to pray,
“My kingdom go.”**

**Are you willing to do that?
Until we give God permission to
supplant or even dismantle our
personal kingdom—
our own wants, desires,
priorities, plans, and goals—
we can’t really pray
“Your kingdom come”
with any integrity.**

Pastor Greg Laurie
Essentials

3. The “be” attitudes are not a list of commands—they are a description of Christ-follower traits, a standard of conduct. When we live these out, we are a visible demonstration of an otherwise invisible (to unbelievers) grace that we live in *and oftentimes take for granted*.

As you go through this list, keep in mind these aren’t like spiritual gifts, where the Spirit chooses to give each one of us some but not others. These are the standard for every citizen in God’s kingdom. But you *will* see the *fruit* of the Spirit at work.

Read each “be” attitude and answer these questions: How is this different from the world’s standard practice? How does it make *me* different? What fruits of the Spirit are evident? (See Galatians 5:22–23.)

- a. Poor in spirit – Matthew 5:3. We are utterly destitute of any claim to goodness within ourselves. As the old hymn goes, “Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to the cross I cling.”
- b. Those who mourn – Matthew 5:4. Jesus used the strongest word for *mourn* here. Grief that strips and stuns to the core of your soul. We mourn for all kinds of reasons: loss, regrets, circumstances, sins. God is our unfailing source of consolation (Psalm 94:19).

- c. Meek – Matthew 5:5. A forbearing spirit; strength under control. The proper balance between anger and indifference. Strong enough to suffer wrong without bitterness or desire for revenge.
- d. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness – Matthew 5:6. Jesus chose words that mean *famished* and *insatiable thirst* for the desire to be in a right relationship with God.
- e. Merciful – Matthew 5:7. Mercy has been rightly described as God’s heart in action. He is moved with compassion toward us. Remember the term *pay it forward*? God’s mercy and kindness to us put us in a position to be merciful and kind to others.
- f. Pure in heart – Matthew 5:8. An unpolluted, undivided heart. Pure in the sense of a clean, forgiven heart. Pure in the sense of a wholly devoted heart—no competing idols.
- g. Peacemakers – Matthew 5:9. One who actively makes peace *with* others (Romans 12:18) and actively brings peace *to* others by sharing the gospel (2 Corinthians 5:18–20).
- h. Persecuted for righteousness’ sake – Matthew 5:10–12. This may be the blessing no one wants to claim, but Jesus said that it’s part of being identified with Him (2 Timothy 3:12).

Jesus pronounced us *blessed* or happy. We usually think of happiness as being comfortable or trouble-free. This “happy” is more like *serene*. It’s an unshakeable sense of well-being that is not dependent on outward circumstances.

Memory Verse

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”
Mark 1:15 NKJV

Think it over . . .

What aspect of your personal “kingdom” is difficult for you to let go?

Day Three – Salt, Light, and Soil

Read Matthew 5:13–16 and Luke 8:4–15.

When we pray, “Your kingdom come,” we are praying for God’s people to be about God’s business of proclaiming the gospel.

1. What do salt and light have in common? In a word, *influence*. After describing what makes a Christian distinct from the world, Jesus used the metaphor of salt and light to illustrate the influence we are meant to have in our culture.

If we want to be salt and light, it helps to be clear what we are aiming for. Do we want the *insta*-influence or the long-obedience-in-the-same-direction version? It’s easier than ever before to access spiritual wisdom from godly influencers. And it’s never been more challenging to cultivate it for ourselves. If we want others to know that we follow Jesus on more than our social media, what will that require? Share your thoughts. (Post them too, if you’d like.)

2. Jesus said, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone” (Mark 16:15 NLT). The only way people come into God’s kingdom is by hearing *and responding* to the gospel. Our part is to spread the seed as frequently and far as we can, and pray. Only God can change a heart and life. But we can always improve on our delivery. The Parable of the Sower, which is really more about the soil, can help.* Give some thought and response to the following observations.
 - a. Jesus likens the Word of God to a seed, not a boulder. Consider the difference. For example, a seed penetrates soil—vs—a boulder pulverizes soil. A seed germinates and grows—vs—a boulder smothers any chance of growth beneath where it lands.
 - b. The sower scattered the seed freely as he walked through the field. There’s no indication he was concerned about wasting seed or limiting it to areas he deemed to be good soil.
 - c. Think of your own salvation experience. Did you hear and respond to the gospel right away? Which of the soils (any or all) could you identify with at some point before you were saved? Perhaps even after you were saved? In what way?

* You can compare this with the parallel accounts in Matthew 13 and Mark 4 if you like.

Day Four – Come Lord Jesus

1 Peter 4:7

“But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.”

“It’s time.” Two simple words with the power to summon up a range of emotions. A sentimental whisper from a father as he walks his daughter down the aisle. For one awaiting test results, it’s the pulse-quickenning announcement that the doctor will see you now. Uttered by an expectant mom, those words set joy into motion. Imagine what it will be like when the one saying, “It’s time,” is Jesus, our returning Lord and King!

1. “Come, Lord Jesus” is the last prayer in the entire Bible (Revelation 22:20). This is what we are asking when we pray, “Your kingdom come.” Someday the Lord will answer that prayer! How should we live as we look forward to the Lord’s return? Read Titus 2:11–15 and answer in your own words.

2. What are some specific ways we can be serious and watchful in our prayers for . . .
 - a. The church and our church leaders.

 - b. Our nation and our elected officials.

 - c. Believers proclaiming the gospel worldwide.

3. “Your kingdom come” means: (Check all that apply.)
 - a. Solving social problems and eliminating evil. _____
 - b. Expressing unconditional obedience to God’s reign in my heart and life. _____
 - c. A prayer for the gospel to be preached in all the world. _____
 - d. Anticipation for the Lord’s return. _____
 - e. Add your own thought. _____

Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

Memory Verse

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”
Mark 1:15 NKJV

And When You Pray . . .

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”

Greg Laurie

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests
