

# Obeying Jesus

7 Commands  
for Every Disciple

**Week 5 | Thy Kingdom Come**

# Obeying Jesus – Series Focus

- In his last moments on earth with his core disciples, Jesus said, “Go and make disciples... teaching them to obey all that I have commanded” (Matt 28:18-20)
- So, what are these commands that sincere, authentic followers of Jesus should be obeying?
- In our **Obeying Jesus: 7 Commands for Every Disciple** series, we will look closely at those teachings and practices that Jesus presented as basic and foundational to faithfully following him as his disciples in the world
- 7 Commands: repent & believe, baptism, communion, loving God & neighbor, **prayer**, giving, & making disciples

# Thy Kingdom Come

- The disciples observed that Jesus prayed a lot. They saw Jesus regularly retreat for times of prayer.
- They also heard Jesus critique the prayers of the Pharisees and their pious self-centered prayers. Naturally, they ask Jesus to teach them how to pray.
- So Jesus tells them the way they should pray is to be supremely concerned for God's Kingdom to come. He says, "This, then, is how you should pray..."
- In *Thy Kingdom Come* (5 of 7), we will look at how Jesus frames all of prayer as a cry for Kingdom.

“Jesus’ prayer life indicates that he viewed prayer as an eschatological activity—that is, he saw prayer as being connected to the final completion of God’s work in the world. This is not surprising, Jesus understood his entire mission in the same light. He knew full well that he had come to announce and inaugurate God’s rulership over all creation, including humankind. For him, prayer was one of the means by which this mission was to be accomplished.”

**Stanley Grenz, *Prayer: The Cry for the Kingdom* (pg.18)**

“Christian prayer is a different kind of thing—different both from the prayer of the pantheist, getting in touch with the inwardness of nature, and that of the Deist, sending out messages across a lonely emptiness. Christian prayer is about standing at the fault line, being shaped by the Jesus who knelt in Gethsemane, groaning in travail, holding heaven and earth together like someone trying to tie two pieces of rope with people tugging at the other ends to pull them apart.”

N. T. Wright, **Simply Christian** (pg.164)

# The Prayer Life of Jesus

- **Prayed alone** (Lk 5:16) in the morning (Mk 1:35); in the evening (Matt 14:23); all night long (Lk 6:12)
- **Prayed with/for his disciples**  
(Lk 6:12; Lk 22:32; Jn 17:1-26)
- **Prayed for his enemies** (Matt 5:44; Lk 6:28; 23:34)
- **Prayed against Satan** (Matt 4:10; 16:23)
- **Prayed in all situations & moods**  
(Lk 22:41-44; Jn 11:41-42; 12:27-28)
- **Taught his disciples how to pray** (Matt 6:9-13; Lk 11:1-4)

## Jesus, Matthew 6:5-6 NIV

<sup>5</sup> “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

## Matthew 6:7-8 NIV

<sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

## **Matthew 6:9-13 NIV**

<sup>9</sup> “This, then, is how you should pray:

““Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.””

## **Matthew 6:14-15 NIV**

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

# How Should We Pray?

1. Don't do it just for the sake of ritual or show.
2. Forget thinking you have to use special words or actions to get God's attention in prayer.
3. Think of prayer as a relationship, or a conversation, between a Father (God) and his child (you).
4. Praying God's will be done (which always looks like Jesus) means we intend to do his will in the world.
5. Be in right relationship with others when you pray.
6. Petition your Father whatever the need, but always pray with the coming of the Kingdom in mind.


“The Lord’s Prayer stands as a capstone of Jesus’ prayer life shared with us. For this reason, when we pattern our prayer after his, our prayer becomes an eschatological activity. Just as the petition ‘Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven’ formed the heart of Jesus’ praying, so also in every situation the petitions of Jesus’ friends ought to be a cry for the in-breaking of God’s rulership, God’s will, into our world.”

**Grenz, Prayer: The Cry for the Kingdom (pg.23)**

# Thy Kingdom Come

“Thy Kingdom Come” reflection questions:

1. How is your prayer life? Does your praying reflect an intimate relationship between Father and child?
2. Have you considered how “The Lord’s Prayer” shows us that all prayer should have the Kingdom in view? What difference might this make in the way you pray?
3. What is God speaking to you this morning? How does he want you to respond to this message? Will you let the Spirit guide you in a change of mind and practice?



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Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:  
[www.christiansburgmennonite.org](http://www.christiansburgmennonite.org)