

Thinking about God's kingdom and will

Daily reflections and questions following Sunday morning's service – thinking about our text for the year: *your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.* (Matthew 6:10)

1 Monday 8th January

Living in a constitutional monarchy, where the sovereign has little direct power, can lead us to a diminished understanding of what it means for God to be king.

What insights do the following passages give us into the authority and sovereignty of God?

2 Kings 19:15	
Psalms 22:27-28	
Psalms 47	
Isaiah 40:21-24	
Daniel 7:27	

Does this give us a broader understanding of what it means for God's kingdom to come?

2 Tuesday 9th January

Jesus encourages us to pray (Matthew 6:10) that God's kingdom comes. When speaking about this kingdom, he uses the phrase "the kingdom of heaven is like" 10 times in Matthew's Gospel with seven of them in Matthew 13 (from verse 24 onwards)¹. He speaks about sowing seed, working yeast, finding hidden treasure, looking for pearls, etc. It's as though the kingdom of heaven isn't easy to define but can be described by referring to other things. What things – from our contemporary world – might you use to describe the kingdom of heaven and why?

3 Wednesday 10th January

For what specific situations are you going to pray that God's will is done? Either where this is not currently happening or where you want it to continue to happen.

1. Across the world
2. In your local situation
3. In your own life

What, if anything, are you going to do to work towards this?

¹ The others are in Matthew 18:23; 20:1; 22:2

4 Thursday 11th January

Writing about our verse Tom Wright says:

this God is not a man-made idol. He is the living God, who dwells in 'heaven', and longs to see his sovereign and saving rule come to birth on 'earth'. This is, in fact, a prayer for the kingdom of God to become fully present: not for God's people to be snatched away from earth to heaven, but for the glory and beauty of heaven to be turned into earthly reality as well. When that is done, God's name—his character, his reputation, his very presence—will be held in high honour everywhere. The first half of the prayer is thus all about God. Prayer that doesn't start there is always in danger of concentrating on ourselves, and very soon it stops being prayer altogether and collapses into the random thoughts, fears and longings of our own minds²

What do you think about this? How does it challenge you?

5 Friday 12th January

Praying for God's will to be done can seem easy as we "leave it up to God" to know what his will is. But seeking to be obedient to his will can be more challenging as sometimes we don't know what that will is.

James says that if we lack wisdom we can pray to God for it and he will generously give it to us (James 1:5) and he then goes on to contrast human wisdom with the wisdom God provides (James 3:13-17). It isn't necessarily an answer to the question of "what should we **do**" but it does speak about the sort of people we should **be**.

What, if anything, would change in you if the descriptions in James 3:17 were to become true for you?

Are you prepared to pray for that wisdom and for that change?

6 Saturday 13th January

Go back over the week and try to summarise how your understanding of God has changed, how your priorities have changed, how your approach to prayer has changed?

Ask God to continue to show you more of himself and more of his purposes for your life.

² Tom Wright, [*Matthew for Everyone, Part 1: Chapters 1-15*](#) (London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 2004), 59.