

**Your Kingdom come...
(What is God's agenda?)
Matt 6.10**

Your kingdom come, your will be done

Kings and kingdoms

"The Kingdom" is at the very centre of why Jesus came.

A kingdom is defined by the will of the king (hence, "*your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*")

A kingdom is held together by oaths of loyalty to the king.

When we become Christians we swear an oath of loyalty to God, called baptism.

The "upside down" kingdom

For the weak, not the powerful

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
(Matt 5.3)

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matt 5.10)

"Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matt 18.4)

For the repentant, not the perfect

"I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him." (Matt 21.31-32)

The gracious kingdom

The Kingdom is like...

... a king who forgives a huge debt (Matt 18)

... a man who pays everybody the same, regardless of when they were hired (Matt 20)

The growing kingdom

... a seed that is sown in the ground and grows (Matt 13)

... a tiny seed that grows into a tree. (Matt 13)

Living in the kingdom

Jesus didn't teach us to pray, "*Take us to your kingdom in heaven, when we're done here on earth.*" but, "*your kingdom come, [here, where we are right now] your will be done [here] on earth as it is in heaven.*"

Every time we pray this line of the Lord's Prayer we're admitting that things are not what they should be.

Jesus came proclaiming that the Kingdom of God was near. It broke through into the earth when he came.

The church is a sign of the Kingdom. Part of our calling is to point to what the kingdom is, as we live for the King.

Practically this means

- living lives of justice and compassion
 - care for the poor and those on the margins
 - bringing healing to those in pain (physically or emotionally)
- honouring God by living godly lives
 - you can't be part of the kingdom if you haven't sworn loyalty to the king