

Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"THE NECESSITY OF KINGDOM-FOCUSED PRAYER"

Discuss

Every year on the Sunday of LMPC's World Missions Conference, there is a procession of flags during the opening hymn of the worship services in the sanctuary. Eighth-graders at the church carry in the flags of the nations in which our ministry partners serve. Sometimes the flags are those of small countries with limited influence. Other flags represent countries that wield great economic and political power. The first flag that is carried in, however, is from neither a small nor a large country. The first flag carried in is the Christian flag, and the subsequent flag-carriers lower their flags before it as they pass by. It is a very visible way of showing that God's Kingdom prevails over every earthly kingdom. It's also a reminder that as followers of Christ, we are citizens first and foremost of God's Kingdom. Our highest allegiance is to the Lord God Almighty.

- 1) If we are completely honest, however, most of us would have to admit that we are rather fond of our own personal kingdoms, those little worlds of prestige, power, or pleasure that we strive to maintain. But Jesus told his disciples to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matt. 6:33—if time, you may want to read more of this passage.)
 - In what ways do we (sometimes or often) resist the priority of God's Kingdom in both our lives and in our prayers? Why are we prone to doing this, and how can we do otherwise?
- 2) In his book *Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer*, C. S. Lewis shares the ways that he "festoons" (i.e., expands on) the petitions of the Lord's Prayer when he uses it as a pattern for his personal prayers.
 - When you pray, "Your Kingdom come," what do you have in mind? How might you expand on that prayer—in other words, what kinds of things would you ask for as part of your praying for the coming of God's Kingdom?
- 3) In the longer version of the Lord's Prayer given in the book of Matthew, "Your Kingdom come," is followed by the petition, "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matt. 6:10)
 - When we pray both of these prayers (or echo the prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane from Luke 22:42), are we asking God to do something or asking him to help us to do something? Or are we asking for both? Explain your answer.
- 4) No one in this suffering world lives for very long without deeply desiring evil to end or (at the very least) affliction to be alleviated.
 - When we pray for suffering to be taken away, how can we make the prayer, "Your will be done," more than mere resignation or (as sometimes happens) more than a way to protect ourselves from the disappointment of a "no" in answer to our prayers?

DATE: January 12, 2020

SPEAKER: Joe/Chad

SERIES: Prayer

PASSAGE: Luke 11:1-2, 22:42

Pray

Everlasting Lord,

May your Kingdom come and your will be done in our hearts, in our lives, in our families, in our church, in our community, in our world, and in this universe.

Enable us by your power and strength to do far more than merely resign ourselves to your will. We want to embrace your Kingdom and your will for this world with great joy. May our hearts echo with a resounding "Yes!" when we consider everything that you teach us to do in your Word. Make us glad followers of our Savior Jesus.

Even as we pray for your Kingdom and rejoice in what you have done and are doing in this world, we long for the day when your Kingdom will be ushered in in all its fullness and glory. Come quickly, Lord Jesus! We pray in your name. Amen.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Shepherd's Arms Rescue Mission

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Ministry to the Fulani People