

Text: Matthew 6:9-13

Title: "For Thine Is..."

Introduction:

### **Pray First!**

Before we begin, I invite you to take the insert out of your program. On one side you will see our Scripture for today and on the other you will find an outline with fill-in-the-blanks. Please take time to fill in those blanks and listen and watch for other things this morning that you think will help you move forward in your faith journey. Take time to write down what you need... I pray that this will help you be more who God wants you to be. (9am) For those of you listening online, you can download our whole program, including the outline sheet so that you, also, may fill-in-the-blanks.

This is the wrap up to our series on The Disciple's Prayer. This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. In Luke it says that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. In Matthew Jesus taught his disciples how to pray as part of the Sermon on the Mount. Regardless of how it came about, it is believed that these are the words of Jesus as he OUTLINED how to pray for his disciples.

We are using the Matthew version of Jesus teaching his disciples to pray. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is teaching while thousands sit on a hillside and listened. Right before he teaches them how to pray, he says this:

*<sup>7</sup> "When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered only by repeating their words again and again. <sup>8</sup> Don't be like them, because your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!"<sup>1</sup>*

Two things here: 1) Don't pray the same thing over and over again ... to God that sounds like babbling on and on. It also becomes babbling to us. 2) Don't pray just to get stuff for yourself. God already knows what you need. We pray / talk to God to improve our relationship/partnership with God.

Right after Jesus says that, we pick up our Scripture for today. It is from Matthew 6:9-13 ... Read with me please:

### **READ MATTHEW 6:9-13 NOW!**

*<sup>9</sup> Pray like this:*

*Our Father in heaven,*

*May your name be honored.*

<sup>10</sup> *May your Kingdom come soon.*

*May your will be done here on earth,*

*Just as it is in heaven.*

<sup>11</sup> *Give us our food for today,\**

<sup>12</sup> *and forgive us our sins,*

*Just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us.*

<sup>13</sup> *And don't let us yield to temptation,*

*But deliver us from the evil one.\*<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup>Holy Bible: New Living Translation. 1997 (Mt 6:6). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House.

<sup>\*</sup>Matthew 6:11 Or for tomorrow.

<sup>\*</sup>Matthew 6:13 Or from evil. Some manuscripts add For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

<sup>2</sup>Holy Bible: New Living Translation. 1997 (Mt 6:8). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House.

## I. The Footnote to the Disciple's Prayer

Did you notice that there was something missing from our Scripture? It stopped before the end of the prayer! There's more to the prayer! If Jesus didn't say it, then how come we pray, "For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory Forever. Amen"?

### A. Why Do We Pray a Footnote?

1. Let's remember, first of all, that this is a Jewish prayer. Jesus was Jewish; his immediate disciples were Jewish; the majority of his followers were Jewish, so when this prayer began circulating by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century it was mostly Jewish people praying it.
2. Jewish prayers were commonly used in the context of worship. In worship, Jews would wrap up the different parts of worship (prayer, scripture reading, etc.) with a statement of praise or a 'doxology'. It would not be uncommon to say something to the effect of "for Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory Forever. Amen." at the end of a prayer.
3. King David was Jewish and he did it. Listen to I Chronicles 29:10-11 and see if you can hear the closing of the prayer Jesus taught...

*<sup>10</sup> Then David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly: "O LORD, the God of our ancestor Israel,<sup>\*</sup> may you be praised forever and ever! <sup>11</sup> Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O LORD, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things."<sup>3</sup>*

4. With Jesus being Jewish, this would have been his practice too. So, it is not out of line for this to be part of our prayer ... it was common to give God glory (doxa) when finishing a prayer.
5. Chances are when the scribes were writing such profound words of Jesus (for Matthew or Luke), they would have written in the margin some sort of doxology or ending words of praise. Eventually, in the translations, this ending was pulled out of the margin and added as a footnote (2<sup>nd</sup> century).
6. Even though it is a footnote, I think that it is important that we study these words as an essential part of the prayer we pray ... hopefully, when we are done, you will agree!

### B. The Importance of the "For"

1. This first little word of this final phrase looks like just three letters (and it is), but it's really important that we understand how this connects this doxology to the rest of the prayer.
2. "For" can be used for many things, but here its purpose is to act as a "BECAUSE", and all the things we have said in this prayer are "BECAUSE"...

<sup>\*</sup> *1 Chronicles 29:10* Israel is the name that God gave to Jacob.

<sup>3</sup> *Holy Bible: New Living Translation*. 1997 (1 Ch 29:9). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House.

3. In other words, we can pray every line of this prayer ... Our Father, your name is great, we want Your will here on earth, Give us the physical and spiritual food we need, forgive us our sins and keep us safe from the evil one ... BECAUSE “Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever...” Get it?
4. It’s also important because it says “BECAUSE” of these things, I can pray this prayer (even me, a sinner, a mess, a hurter of people and God) and God will listen and care... Because YOURS is the Kingdom, Power and Glory, God!
5. Okay, so what does Jesus say about the Kingdom, Power and Glory of God?

## II. What Does Jesus Say About:

### A. The Kingdom

1. 1<sup>st</sup> = Definition? A kingdom is a geographic area or a place that is under the rule of some sort of monarchy (king or queen) and all the people are under the rule of said king or queen and have agreed to do what the king or queen say to do. The king or queen, in return for that loyalty, offer safety and protection for their subjects. That’s a kingdom.
2. The Kingdom in the Bible is the realm of God. Where is that? I think we established that ‘heaven’ is everywhere ... that’s the realm of God!
3. We are in God’s Kingdom right now ... every part of earth is part of God’s Kingdom ... universe and beyond = God’s Kingdom!
4. Let me ask a quick question, “If God is everywhere, then where is Hell?” My suggestion is ‘hell’ is wherever people have decided that they don’t want to serve another king, but just serve themselves. Hell is a place where “it’s all about me!” It’s a selfish place where people look after their own desires and that’s it.
5. God’s will is for us to live for Him and love His other kids even if they don’t deserve it. God also gave us free will; the ability to choose to follow God as King or not follow God.
6. That’s our human story. Throughout Scripture we find that people choose to reject God and God picks them up, dusts them off and says, “Let’s try again.”
7. In the New Testament, God’s plan is not to send the armies of heaven to destroy the rebellious people, but instead, to send the Prince ... His Son. The Prince will seek to win over the rebellious people with His love. That’s the Good News ... the story of Jesus.

8. And Jesus begins His ministry with the words, “Repent of your sins because the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” Jesus taught often about the KINGDOM.
  9. God’s Kingdom is different from any other place, as Jesus teaches. He teaches that the Kingdom is a place where the 1<sup>st</sup> are last and the last are 1<sup>st</sup>!
  10. Jesus says that unless we become like children, we will never see the Kingdom ... the children have a special place in the Kingdom!
  11. The weak and the lowly and the sinners and the poor and the least are the ones who are important in God’s Kingdom ... Jesus said that the prostitutes and sinners who repent will enter the Kingdom before the ones who think they are righteous, but are filled with hypocrisy!
  12. The Kingdom of God, according to Jesus, is like a party or a wedding banquet thrown by God that all are invited to, but many refuse...
  13. Tony Campolo / Honolulu / 3:30am / Agnes / 39<sup>th</sup> Birthday / “The Kingdom of God is a Party” / Harry / “did you know that tomorrow is my birthday?” / “can I just look at it?” / takes the cake home / Tony prays with the other prostitutes / Harry = “didn’t tell me you were a preacher ... what kind of church are you from?” / Tony = “I’m from the kind of Church that throws parties for prostitutes at 3:30 in the morning.”
  14. And Jesus said, “That’s what the Kingdom of God is like. A party for sinners who repent / ask forgiveness and strive to stop sinning and please God!”
  15. The Kingdom of God is like a father who waits for his messed up son to come home ... at the edge of the property.
  16. The Kingdom of God was shown to us by Jesus who got reamed for eating in the homes of tax collectors and sinners!
- B. The Power
1. 1<sup>st</sup> = We believe that God is the source of all creation and He is power.
  2. Our Bibles tell us that God was in existence before time and before there was anything else (14.5 billion years ago, according to science...), and just by speaking, all that we see came into existence.
  3. That’s power! We believe in the Creator God who is all-powerful.
  4. Moses asked, “Who are you?” Answer: “I Am”. God is existence itself. All that exists is because of God!
- C. The Glory

1. 1<sup>st</sup> = Definition? “Glory” means a lot of things ... fame, success, awe-inspiring, a beautiful vision, majesty, splendor, wonder, grandeur, brilliance; something worthy of praise...
2. In our Bibles it says that when people saw the Glory of God, they were overwhelmed. They fell on their knees and couldn't look up. Remember the shepherds in the fields on that 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas and the “the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified.”
3. That's God ... Glorious and Brilliant and Magnificent!
4. That glory was revealed in Jesus, according to John's Gospel

<sup>14</sup> *So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.\* And we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father.*<sup>4</sup>

5. The true glory of God is revealed in Jesus on the CROSS. How? This is where Jesus reveals who God is ... willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for His people. Jesus showed the unconditional love that is God! God is GLORY to you and me! Magnificent!

### III. Thine or Mine

- A. We now have to deal with that one word that comes before “the Kingdom, Power, and Glory” ... THINE! Even though we understand how powerful and glorious God really is, it's hard to give that over to God because of the 3<sup>rd</sup> word we learned as kids ... Let me see ... “Mommy” ... “Daddy” ... “MINE!”
- B. And, it sticks with us throughout our lives ... my car, my house, my career, my wife, my boat, my stuff ... mine, mine, mine... it's hard for us to say “Thine” or “Yours”.
- C. Check this out ... (*roll clip from Nemo ... “Mine!”*)?
- D. For many of us who are human, deep inside, that's us. Dumb creatures that are so consumed with what we want that we have a hard time looking outside our own bubble. We like it to be about “me”!
- E. And God says to us that we don't understand ... whatever we have is not really ours, it's only on loan ... it won't last forever!

### IV. Live It Out

- A. God as King
  1. Our lives truly change when we can finally say, “I get it. None of this is mine. Instead, Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory.”
  2. Then we are willing to offer whatever we have for the good of the Kingdom ... it's God's anyway, right?!?
  3. I'm amazed at how many people think stuff is theirs, so they choose to hold onto it tight and they don't want give it to anyone else. And then they die and guess what? It goes to somebody else. Do you know why? They're dead!

<sup>14</sup> *John 1:14* Greek *grace and truth*; also in 1:17.

<sup>4</sup> *Holy Bible: New Living Translation*. 1997 (Jn 1:13). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House.

4. Why not use what we have for God's Kingdom while we can still watch and see how God will use it?!?
- B. Daily Power of the Spirit
1. Hopefully, we realize that we have very little power in this world. We think we do, but we don't.
  2. How many of you have watched your retirement disappear over the last few months? If you had any power, would you have allowed that?
  3. How many people daily get bad news about their health ... things they had no power over?
  4. At some point in our lives, we will get to the point that we understand Who really has power!
- C. Living for the Glory of God
1. Thine is the Glory, God. Help me not to be so caught up in making sure other people think highly of me.
  2. Instead, God, help me to point to You with everything I do ... Thine is the Glory!
  3. How do we "Glorify" God? Every time we live and act and speak in a way that is pleasing to God in this world!
  4. In other words, "God, it's not about me ... it's all about you!" When we pray this prayer, we say that Jesus is LORD over our lives...
- V. **"Forever" and "Amen"**
- A. "Forever" = Is anything "forever"? Cars rust, people die, things change ... I remember when I first started running seriously, my 4 mile route ran straight down from my house on Mound Street and I could run all the way to the back wall of Dick's Supermarket. Now, it's not Dick's Supermarket and I would run into an ambulance garage before I got there... Things Change!
1. There is only one "Forever"! It is not offered in any other religion or non-religion. In the Bible it is mentioned 457 times!
  2. Forever is only possible "BECAUSE Thine is the Kingdom..." Forever is REAL!
  3. God's Kingdom and Power and Glory will still be throughout FOREVER!
  4. God has said, "I would love for you to be with me, forever." It's an invitation!
- B. "Amen" = "So Be It"
1. How better to end this prayer than, "So Be It"
  2. As we pray through the incredibly powerful phrases of this prayer, how else should it end, but with "So be it!"?

Communion: We have a chance right now to recognize God's Glory in Jesus Christ. We remember that ultimate sacrifice every time we take communion. We are also reminded that we are in this together with followers of Jesus Christ all over the world. Here is my challenge to you this morning ... pray as you take the bread and the 'cup', "For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory FOREVER. Amen."

*"Dear Almighty Dad, who is everywhere ... way out in the galaxies as well as in the air we breathe, we promise to spend our lives showing other people with our actions, lifestyle and words, how great YOU are, and it doesn't matter what we look like in the process. God, honestly, we don't care at all about what we want; we want things to happen the way YOU want them to! We want to be part of the team that shows the people in our communities and our workplaces and our schools a little bit of what heaven is like. If You are still willing to pay for it, God, we will do the work.*

*By the way, please don't give us any more food or money or anything, than we need for today. If you do, we might think that we don't need Your help anymore and quit talking to You and spending time with You. Also, please don't give us too little, because then we might end up stealing from Your other kids, and in that way, dishonor Your name...*

*Please erase the things that I have done to You and the ones you love. Otherwise, I will need to be put in a jail without a key or put to death because that's what I deserve. Please erase from my memory the mean-spirited things other people have done to me, so I don't hold it against them. I would hate to have you place the things I've done back on me.*

*And lead us, God, in the way that you want us to go. If we follow your lead, we won't have to deal with the temptations that try to pull us away from you. And take care of the evil one who is so good at marketing and smoke-screens and outright lies. Rush him, God, so that he cannot make a play on us.*

*Finally, I understand now that this life is not about me. The ultimate Kingdom is Yours. Everything I think I have is yours. You are the only powerful One; the Creator of all we know and see. You are magnificent and brilliant and awe-inspiring. And You will be forever. Because of Who You Are, So Be It!"*