

I have included a sermon brief to help you either follow along or reflect on the message, some links to helpful resources for further study, and then discussion questions. I hope it helps!

Sermon Brief

Luke 11:2

Future Focused Prayers

1. I don't know what the average Christian would say is important the church does. I do know you open your Bible and make a list of what is important to God, prayer is near the top.
2. That's clear even just reading Luke. Luke works hard to show us the importance of prayer. It's in Jesus' exhortations. (Luke 18:1) It's in Jesus' example. (Luke 22:39-46) The book of Acts opens with a prayer meeting.
3. How important is prayer? It's like breathing. It should be our heartbeat. What's that church do? That church prays. We are looking at Luke 11 because prayer is important, and because prayer is something that it's possible to get wrong.
4. Sometimes people get prayer wrong by focusing mostly on the externals. Other times people get prayer wrong by using it to earn God's favor. And still others get prayer wrong by thinking of it as they do to meet a need in God.
5. God created prayer for us. It's not because of a need in Him, but a need in us. Through believing biblical prayer God does important things in us.
6. One reason God has you pray is because He wants to give you the assurance He loves you and is at work in your life. Another reason God has you pray is to orient your view toward Him. Still one more reason God has you pray is to realign your desires His sovereign plan.
7. We see that in the fact that Jesus teaches us to pray, "Father, hallowed be your name, **your kingdom come.**"
8. Your kingdom come is a request we are making of God. This is something we should want. And it's a statement of hope really. As I am reading about this kingdom in the Bible, what's supposed to happen is, I start going to God in prayer, saying, God that's what I am longing for.
9. The word we might use for this is: **HOPE.**
10. You remember Jesus is teaching us to pray. First, believe. Second, remember. And this is third. Hope! In real prayer, you are coming back to God's promises and seeking to hope in your hope. You are calling on God to do what He's promised. You are working as you are praying at taking your hopes and fixing them on God's great promise plan. Jesus is reminding us as we pray not just to talk about what we want with God but to seek to bring what we want back in line with His great plan and Jesus is saying here and all throughout the gospels really that His great plan has to do with His coming kingdom, which is why it is important we understand what he means exactly.
11. *What exactly are you hoping when you hope God's kingdom will come?*
12. We can start simply by looking at the phrase itself. It's not something happening right now exactly otherwise we wouldn't be praying for it to come. We can look at the way Jesus explains it in Matthew 6:10 where he adds, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, which tells us your kingdom come means you want what's happening there to happen here.

13. In other words you are praying that the effects of the curse would be reversed, that sin would be destroyed, that everybody would know God is king, that everyone would see the beauty of Jesus, that sinners would be judged, and that God's perfect rule of righteousness would be established and everyone on the planet would always do exactly what God wants all the time.
14. And one of the reasons you should be praying for that is because the Bible tells us that's the plan God has in mind for the future of the universe. It's this perfect kingdom come.
15. A kingdom is a pretty physical thing. Think about a kingdom. What does a kingdom involve? First it involves a king. Second it requires a people. And third it needs a place.
16. So while there's a sense in which you could say there is a kingdom of God going on right now, we might call this God's universal kingdom, this kingdom Jesus is talking about is a future kingdom, one theologians call the mediatorial kingdom, which is a big word I know, but the idea is very important because the whole story of the Bible is a story about how God makes that kingdom happen.
17. Genesis 1:26-28→Psalm 8→Hebrews 2:5-8→Ephesians 1:22→1 Corinthians 15:23-25→Revelation 2:26→Revelation 5:10→Revelation 20:1-4→Revelation 21:1-4,22:1-5
18. And the reason I am going on and on about this is because that's the kingdom we are longing for, and whether you understand all the details of how it is going to work out, it's going to work out and God wants us to be putting our hope in this. That's why we are praying, your kingdom come.

Helpful Links:

1. The Importance of an Eternal Perspective: [Eternity Amnesia](#)
2. Benefits of Praying to a Sovereign, Non-Needy God: [Pray because God is Sovereign](#)
 - a. [Sovereign](#)
3. Read the following Psalms and see how they pray your kingdom come: Psalm 67, 68, 82. See if you can find anymore! (Hint: They are all over!)
4. Going deeper: [An Overview of Biblical Teaching on the Kingdom of God](#)

Discussion Questions:

1. We are talking AGAIN about prayer. Why so much about prayer? What are some ways Luke shows the importance of prayer?
2. What are some different ways people get prayer wrong? Can you think of any wrong ideas or attitudes you have had about prayer?
3. One wrong idea people sometimes have is that we pray because of a need in God. When God actually gave us the gift of prayer because of needs in us. What are some ways God uses prayer to do us good?
4. What did we mean on Sunday when we said one of the purposes of prayer is to readjust our desires with God's plan?
5. Specifically we looked at the request, 'Your Kingdom come.' The word we used to summarize this aspect of prayer is, 'hope.' What does it mean to put your hope in your hope in prayer?

6. You are constantly hoping and the world is telling you to put your hopes in certain things. What are some of the promises the world makes that you are tempted to put your hope in?
7. What is Jesus telling us to be hoping for when he tells us to pray your kingdom come?
8. Now, the kingdom of God is a big topic. There's a sense in which it's the theme of the whole Bible! But what are some of the things we learned about the kingdom of God on Sunday? (What is the difference between the universal and mediatorial kingdom? What is God's plan for the universe? What does the Old Testament promise about this kingdom? How does the New Testament expand and explain the kingdom of God?)
9. What are some specific steps you can take to become more future focused in your prayer life? What would it look like to pray this way?