

Power and Glory

Pray Like This Week 6

By Pastor Mandy Barkhaus

Jesus says to pray like this, and then he gives us this beautiful model for a prayer. But imagine, as a child trying to understand the depths of this prayer, not to mention trespasses and kingdom and writing in heaven. Right? So, Reverend Adam Hamilton, he wrote a children's book in order to help his own grandchild and others understand the most important prayer of all, which is what the book is titled.

So Jackson is going to read for us part of the book.

Is to spend the night with her grandparents, Mimi and Papa. She bake cookies and playing games with Mimi. Papa told her stories from the Bible and tossed around the bed while she giggled and squealed after supper in a bath. She would have a cup of ice cream with sprinkles before it was time to brush your teeth and get ready for bed.

At bedtime, Mimi and Papa would take turns reading her stories about a cat named Pete or a monkey named George, or a spider named Charlotte. Then came a Bible story. And finally, before they turned off the lights, they would pray with Stella one night. Papa said, Stella, tonight give me an papa to teach you one of the most important prayers of all.

It's the prayer Jesus taught his disciples, which is why we call it the Lord's Prayer. I know that prayer. Papa, we say it in church. Well, tonight we're going to talk about the prayer and see what it means. And from now on, every time you spend the night, we'll say it together at bedtime. Is that okay with you?

Stella nodded. Papa took one and Stella's hands and Mimi took the other. Papa said the words of the prayer, and Mimi and Stella repeated after together. When they finished still, I asked, Papa, does God really do art in heaven? And why is God's name hollow? And what is it? Trespass. Papa smiled and said, those are great questions, Stella.

That's exactly what I want us to talk about. What this prayer means. So let's look at it line by line. They said the first line with me and our father, who art in heaven. Stella repeated Papa's words. Papa continued, when Jesus told us to pray our father, he was teaching us to think of God as a loving parent.

Stella, what do you. What do your mommy and daddy do for you? They love me and care for me and watch over me. That's right, Papa said. Jesus was telling us that God does this for us too. When we pray our father, we remember that God loves us, watches over us, and cares for us like a parent. Then Mimi and Stella, then Mimi said, and Stella, when we say our father who art in heaven, we don't mean God does art in heaven a long time ago. Art is. So, we're really praying. Our father, who is in heaven.

Mimi said. And that brings us to the final words of the prayer. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen. With these words, we remember that everything belongs to

God. That God is the rightful ruler over everything, and that the Lord and that we were created to honor God. Papa said, the Lord's Prayer is the most important prayer in the world.

In the world, Stella. When we pray, we remember who God is and what God is like, and we remember what God wants us from us. And we promise to do his will. Its words help us to be the people God wants us to be. And that's why Mimi, and I want you to know this prayer and period every day.

With that, Mimi and Papa turned off the lights, snuggled with Stella and told her they loved her. Then Papa said, let's say the Lord's Prayer one more time together before you go to sleep. Mimi, you lead us this time. And together they prayed.

Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen, Amen.

Thanks, Jackson.

I heard a rumor that a life group, an adult life group, was using this book as their study guide for this sermon series. I say, that's awesome. I mean, Jesus told us we are supposed to have this child like faith, and faith is, or at least should be simple. Adults usually make it more complicated than it is.

We've been reading out of Matthew chapter six, and here it is again. So Jesus says, when you pray, don't pour out a flood of empty words as the Gentiles do. They think that by saying many words, they'll be heard. Don't be like them because your father knows what you need before you ask.

Pray like this. Our father, who is in heaven, uphold the holiness of your name. Bring in your kingdom so that your will is done on earth as it's done in heaven. Give us the bread we need for today. Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you, just as we also forgive those who have wronged us. And don't lead us into temptation, but rescue us from the evil, evil one.

We've adapted this and made it the Lord's Prayer, Our Father, depending on what church tradition you're from. And as we wrap up the sermon series, we think about this very last line we say in the Lord's Prayer. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen. Now we've been focused on Matthew's version of the Lord's Prayer, but Luke has a version two.

It starts. It goes like this. Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said, Lord, teach us to pray, just as John the Baptist taught his disciples. Jesus told them, when you pray, say, father, uphold the holiness of your name. Bring in your kingdom. Give us the bread we need for today.

Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who has wronged us. And don't lead us into temptation. Now, Jesus was, saying these words in Luke's account of this. This prayer is a little bit shorter than Matthew's account of the prayer, but neither Luke nor Matthew include this ending line for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

We humans have created this powerful ending or benediction to the prayer, and humans decided to say for the second time in the prayer, Kingdom. Now you will find in the New Testament 53 times,

where the phrase Kingdom of God or Kingdom of Heaven, 53 different times. And out of those 53 times, most of those are from the lips of Jesus.

Jesus is talking about the kingdom, and this last line of, is not found in Scripture, but it certainly is scripturally based. So what exactly are we praying when we pray for this kingdom to come? Or we pray that God's kingdom has this power and glory? A few weeks ago in in this sermon series, Brian Thomas gave a message about the kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven and the misconceptions of what that kingdom looks like.

It doesn't look like the kind of power we think of when we think of ruling the world, the world instead of, domination. It's restoration. And that's where there is this power that lies in this prayer and that power that lies in the Kingdom. Last weekend, a few of us from the Horizons care team, we went to this, conference of called the Caring Congregation.

Reverend Karen Lampkin is the founder of the Caring Congregation. And she was there and she presented to us and she said this about prayer. She said, prayer lifts us up out of the chaos of the moment into a different reality. That reality is where we connect with God and restoration can happen. Prayer takes us from chaos to restoration, and restoration is God's kingdom, a restoration that comes from forgiveness, a restoration from the temptations that we face and restorations from the injustices in the world that is the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven, is what we ask in the prayer.

We Christians sometimes too often focus on, well, I am a Christian. I believe in Jesus because I will go to heaven when I die. But that's not all. That's what it's about. I mean, Jesus talks about when he comes. Jesus says, the kingdom is here, not the kingdom. You know, let's worry about the kingdom. What will happen when we die, but the kingdom is here, Jesus says, and also will fully come here.

So there is power and glory in God's kingdom and in God's kingdom. The world will be made right. There will be justice in the world and in God's kingdom. Biblical principles that we find in the New Testament and in the Old Testament will come become a priority. We will care for the widows and the orphans and the poor and the oppressed, and those who are bullied.

The kingdom here is is a realization that we cannot create a perfect world on our own. God is already at work. God already sent His Son Jesus to be the kingdom here on earth. And now we recognize the power and the glory and the kingdom forever and ever. The Kingdom is both here now and fully coming. And Jesus came to show us that.

Then Jesus gave this authority and this commission to the church, to us, to do the work, to do justice work in our world, to do mercy, work in our world, while relying on the power and glory of God. Now, here's something interesting. I think this is interesting. In Luke's shorter version of this Lord's Prayer, Jesus continues on to teach us more about prayer and what God does in prayer and what we should do in prayer.

So, in Luke right after. And don't lead us into temptation. Then, then Jesus says this he also said to them, imagine that one of you has this friend, and you go to that friend in the middle of the night. You knock on that door, you knock on your friend's door in the middle of the night and imagine saying to that friend, friend loaned me three loaves of bread because another friend of mine is on this journey, and I have nothing to offer him.

I have nothing to set before him. And imagine further your friend in the middle of the night who's in bed. Imagine that friend, he answers from within the house and he says, don't bother me, right? The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up to give you anything. And then Jesus continues, and he says, I assure you, even if your friend wouldn't get up and help you because of his friendship, he will get up and give his friend whatever he needs. Because of his friend's brashness.

Now, other translations will say because of his friend's audacity or because of his friend's persistence. And Jesus uses this story, this parable, this story to teach us how we should pray, how we should approach God in prayer. And it's with boldness and perseverance, because God is more caring than any other human neighbor. And we are in the middle of this good neighbor experiment cohort we started in July.

We go through November, and there is a group of us who are working on being better neighbors to our actual neighbor, something we should all aspire to do, right. We are told to love our neighbor as our self and. And here's the standard that God is more caring than any human neighbor. That is what the kind of love we should be showing to our neighbor.

From this story, we learn that God is eager to hear our prayers and will answer them. Because God loves us as God's children. God doesn't want us to approach with apprehension, but with boldness and faith, and we shouldn't hesitate to call on God in prayer in the middle of the night. It's midnight. It's okay. Go to God any time because prayer pulls us into God's reality and then invites us to bring the world alongside.

Most people pray either a little or a lot. Sometimes people pray just when they're desperate and they just go to God in prayer and for other people, for other traditions. Prayer is just so much part of their life. But I love this quote from theologian N.T. Wright about prayer. He says at its lowest. Prayer is shouting into a void on the off chance there may be somebody out there listening, but at its highest, prayer merges into love as the presence of God becomes so real that we pass beyond words and into a sense of his reality, generosity, delight and grace.

See, if we're not boldly and persistently knowing the power of God, we are missing an important piece of the faith puzzle. We are missing a chance to come before God in and have God become part, a real part of every single aspect of our lives. We are missing the delight and the generosity and the grace of God.

If we're not in prayer, we are missing restoration. We are missing God's kingdom here on earth. Now Jesus assumes his followers are praying. He doesn't say, if you pray, pray like this. He says, when you pray, pray like this. And then if you've made it this far into the sermon series on prayer and you haven't upped your prayer game, it's time to start.

Because there is power in prayer. We say at the end of this prayer for yours, God is the power and the glory in the kingdom forever and ever. And Jesus gave us this framework for prayer and how we should pray, how we should approach God with boldness and persistence, but also reminding us that it's not just about our needs, but it's about our needs.

Not just about my needs, but about our needs. Again, it's not give me my daily bread. It's give us our daily bread. Forgive us as we forgive those who trespass against us. It's about inviting more people

to the table, not less. That is one of these things that this prayer that Jesus is teaching us in this prayer, that it's not just about me and my relationship with God.

It's about inviting the world to join what we have now here. Horizons. We have this space. We have this space that people use every single day, in the morning, in the afternoons, in the evenings, I would guess I would. I would bet that probably more nonmembers use this space than members. And this is our prayer path that goes along the back side of our building.

There are people out there every single day on that path, possibly not connected to another church, possibly not even understanding the love of Jesus. So are we praying for these people? Are we? Are we connecting with those who are on our property or who are on our space now, next week at the conclusion of the services, we will be inviting you to walk our prayer path, and we will put this idea of prayer into action.

It'll take about 15 minutes or so to complete, give or take. And if you're unable to walk, the prayer path will have a little book or guide or something for you to follow along with in order to pray for those who are in our neighborhood. Because praying in our neighborhood and praying for our neighbors is probably one of the most important things that we can be doing as a church.

Because prayer pulls us into God's reality and invites us to bring the world along. And when we pray, it's not just about connecting with God. It's about us connecting to our neighbors. And there are two actions for you to think about this week. I hope that you will be able to come back next Sunday to to be a part of this prayer walk.

As we pray for those in our neighborhood and in our community. But I also invite you to think about the Lord's Prayer this week and make it your own. Put it in words that that have meaning and power for you. Dissect this prayer, the Lord's Prayer that we say, just repeat because we know it by heart for many of us, because we've said it since we were children, or we've said it in church enough that we know it.

In a moment, I'm going to tell you how I've reworked this prayer, but I invite you to do it. It's a powerful, period of prayer and connection with God where you can, can, can see what this means for you in your life. But you have to remember that it's not just about, asking for what you might need.

It's about what we need. And to be honest with you, when I was writing my prayer, when I was reworking my prayer, there were parts of the prayer that it was easy for me to say we. I was like, yes, God, provide us for our the food that we need and the basic needs we all need that.

Then when it came to like forgive the forgiveness part, I kept turning it back to me. I'm like, God, forgive me for the things that I've done. Forgive me for the way that I've wronged others. But it's not about me. It's about us. So here is my here's my prayer. Creator God, who made everything in the heavens and earth to live in harmony as one.

Forgive us humans for making it about us and not you. Provide for us food and shelter and security and community. Forgive us for the ways we've failed our neighbors. We've fallen into ways that are evil and hurtful and dark. Instead of following your goodness and light, lead us. Lead us back to you every day. You have offered us grace, and in that grace power and in that power is love. That lasts

forever and ever. Let it be so. Amen means that Amen means so be it, or let it be so. And to wrap up, this sermon series, to conclude this sermon series, I will say, let it be so that God's kingdom would be here. Let it be so that we would join in making restoration happen not only in our lives, but in the lives of others.

Let it be so that justice would rain down like an ever-flowing stream, Lord, so that everyone has their daily needs met. Let it be so that we can boldly ask for forgiveness and offer forgiveness. Let it be so that we can unlock the power of God's Kingdom in us and through us, through the power of prayer. Prayer pulls us into God's reality and invites us to bring the world along. Prayer unlocks the power of God's kingdom in us and through us.

So the question is, are we willing to boldly go to God in prayer? Father God, we are so thankful for you and in the church. We are thankful that you sent your Son Jesus. To give us an example and not only just an example, but to give us the kingdom.

We understand what we're looking for God. We understand what we're what we're striving to do. You have given the church the authority and the commission to go out to the world, to make disciples of Jesus, to show love, to care for the poor and the oppressed and the widows and the orphans. You have said that over and over again in the Scripture, and God, we have failed you at times, but God you are. You are ready to listen to us in prayer. We are persistent as a church body. We are going to come to you and say, God help us be better neighbors. Help us be better coworkers, help us be better husbands and wives and parents and children and brothers and sisters and friends.

Guide us on this journey. Hear our prayers. We know you hear our prayers but help us to realize that you are ready to listen to us. You're ready to allow the Holy Spirit to move us as individuals and as a church body. God, the world needs you. And you have sent us to show your love to the world. Let it be so.