

Please note: Below please find key points of the Sunday sermon (28 May 2017).

### **Matt 6: Thy Kingdom Come**

Matt 6:5-21

[Prior to reading need to have covered off that Matthew is supposed to be read as a book not just single passages] – use Prayer Sketch as other reading

Billy Graham said, “The Christian should have an appetite for prayer” and no doubt you have heard Wesley’s quote “I have so much to do that I must spend several hours in prayer before I am able to do it”. Prayer is the most important factor in our lives, it is how we keep in our relationship with God. Yet if you are anything like me – it is so easy to get it the other way around – and reduce our prayer because we are being busy.

#### **Pray Privately**

But it strikes me that even as churches we are not very good at following Jesus teaching on prayer. Jesus says, *‘when you pray go into your room, close the door and pray to your father who is unseen’* (Matt 6:6)

Illustration: A little boy was once praying for a new bike and was doing so very loudly, his mother popped in and said Johnny you don’t have to pray so loudly God is not deaf. No but Grandpa is and he is in the next room. Prayer is not for others we are not supposed to be making it obvious to others. It is all to do with our relationship with God.

Notice that when Jesus prays it is privately (as he does in the Garden of Gethsemane) or it is a simple dedication to God, (Last supper). John 17 is a bit more confusing as it drops between sermon and prayer.

The other bit that I always notice with this is that it does not end with “For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen”

#### **Prayer is time with God**

We are also not just supposed to pray occasionally when we are stressed or in trouble. It has been shown by various surveys that about 75% of our secular society manage to do that. Pray should be the central aspect of our lives, whether it is in Church at home, driving the car, they can be long or short. It is all about keeping that relationship with God.

Illustration: communication with wife – some to do nothing with

#### **Prayer is answered**

Jesus said that his Father would give *‘whatever you ask in my name’* (John 15:16).

Illustration: Father asking for £million, mother gave him a cheque on their joint account. Not worth the paper it was written on, however if Bill Gates were to write a cheque for a million pounds it would be worth it.

Thus, if I go in my own name I can achieve nothing but in Jesus name I have unlimited credit.

Deal very briefly with unanswered prayer. There are 4 areas of prayer: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication. When people talk about prayer not being answered they only ever mean with the last of those. So, we are already down at 25%. And what we forget is NO and NOT YET are answers. When God answers No trust him, it is always so that some greater good may come from it. Trust him. He is the God of Love. “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor 12: 9).

Prayer is “Thy Will Be Done” so Janis Joplin’s “Lord won’t you buy me a Mercedes Benz” – no - that is not his will.

Illustration: London 2011, I was working in London, Remembrance Day about to go out to cenotaph. Archbishop Canterbury – raining yes but it was going to be worse.

**Prayer is for Others:**

Use poem – you cannot pray the Lord's Prayer and once say I

**Thy Kingdom Come is the first thing we pray for**

Look at the order,

Our Father who art in Heaven; Hallowed be thy name; - praise – adoration  
thy kingdom come; - first thing we ask for

thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven;

Give us this day our daily bread; - our basics are third

And forgive us our trespasses; as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
confession

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil;

Have talked about Matthew being journey end with how he ends the Great  
Commission but we get there by journeying with Christ and to have that relationship  
with him we must pray.