

“COURAGEOUS FAITH: PRAYING THE LORD’S PRAYER”
“Your Kingdom Come On Earth as in Heaven”

Weekly guide 1/13/19

We have begun a new sermon series *“Courageous Faith: Praying the Lord’s Prayer.”* In our culture, the New Year offers a “re-do,” a chance to make resolutions and tend to all those things we meant to do throughout the previous year. In the Christian tradition, every day, every week is an invitation to “re-do,” to come to worship, confess our sins and shortcomings and experience God’s unfailing grace and mercy. The prayer that Jesus taught is one of the ways we grow as disciples, leaning into God’s grace and trusting God’s love for us. Each week there will be a slightly different version for this study guide to help us pray this prayer more deeply. This week we concentrate on the phrase *“your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”* This phrase may remind us how hard it is to trust that God’s will can be done and we do not need to be afraid or anxious. May the Lord’s Prayer this week give us Courageous Faith to trust that God will guide and direct us and our world. ---Pastor Cindy

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Your Kingdom Come On Earth as in Heaven”**

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don’t let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.
(New Living Translation (NLT), Matthew 6:9-13)

This week’s sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

Study Guide

Monday, January 21, 2019 Luke 6: 27-31

Today is the day a federal holiday marked as Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This past weekend many spent time volunteering to help others. There will be celebrations around the country and in Wichita there is a Day of Service from 8:00 a.m. to noon at Century II Expo Hall, a celebration from noon to 3:00 p.m. at the WSU Hughes Metroplex and a Unity Commemoration from 5:30-7:00 at the Rhatigan Student Center at Wichita State University. Dr. King embodied the words: *“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate...pray for those who mistreat you.”* We pray the Lord’s Prayer every Sunday and many of us pray it daily and say, *“your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”* No human being is perfect, but Dr. King strove for justice for people of color. There is much “kingdom work” still to be done, discrimination happens in many forms and in many ways. *Today, say a prayer and pray for God’s reign of peace, love, justice and righteousness to come to earth. Then ask God how you can help build that kingdom.*

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 Luke 6: 32-35

Jesus goes a step further into “king-dom” living and being. Jesus points out that most people love those who love them. That is “normal” and expected. Expecting something to be returned whether it is love or any kind of transaction is the way of the world. Being a follower of Jesus and part of the reign of God challenges us to go the extra mile. Wayne Muller writes in his book *Learning to Pray*, *“In Jesus’ kingdom, all are welcome—the poor, the unclean, the sinners, prostitutes, and tax collectors. Jesus throws open the doors, inviting all who feel left out, welcoming anyone, anywhere... it is more accurate to translate the word kingdom as household, a joining together for the good of all.”* In these verses, Jesus says that our enemies are part of that household or community that is brought together for all. If we include all into our community we will be acting as children of God. *How do you see that working in your life and in our church? How can we be more open to everyone in our communities, neighborhoods and churches?*

Wednesday, January 23, 2019 Luke 6: 35-36

Be compassionate as God is compassionate. One of the signs of God’s kingdom is compassion, caring, love. It is a sign of the people who belong to the household or kingdom of God. Wayne Muller writes, *“Household is a word found in early Jewish scripture that describes a place where everyone can find sanctuary, nourishment and care. Here, Thy kingdom come may just as rightly be prayed: May we be welcome in the household of God.”* Kingdom as a place for everyone is a powerful image and promise. It takes a great amount of courage to create such a place. People of faith are people of courage. *What one step can you do this week to be part of this kingdom? What one thing will you do differently so that you can be open to all people as part of the household of faith.*

Thursday, January 24, 2019 Colossians 3: 12-14

These verses are so profound. Often used at weddings, love becomes a garment, a piece of clothing in which Christians are wrapped. Paul uses this metaphor of “putting on” values of compassion, kindness to others as part of putting on Christ. As Christ was clothed in these gifts of grace, so are Jesus’ followers. It is not just the virtues and values with which we are clothed, it is the Divine Self. The love and grace of God clothing us, is a means of guiding us as followers of Jesus. Compassion, kindness, love, patience and gentleness like directions on a map point us in the direction of God. The dress code of the kingdom of God is love and compassion. *How will you dress in the love of God and make that real in your life?*

Friday, January 25, 2019 Colossians 3: 15-17

This reading today speaks of the community of faith being there for each other. The community helps us grow in wisdom, gratitude and in a deeper love of Jesus. The community guides believers into great discipleship. One can’t be a Christian by one’s self. From the beginning, the early Christians understood in order to follow Jesus they needed help. As God’s chosen people, love is to be the garment of choice. Love is the basic guide to the life and behavior of kingdom Christians. *How do we look at our words and behavior through the lens of love? Pray the Lord’s Prayer. Focus on that phrase “May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. “Ask the Spirit to guide and shape you that your life might be a witness to that kingdom of Christ.*