

Study Guide: The Mission of Prayer

Carter Sanger, May-10

Introduction

- Have you ever said to someone, “It’s okay, it’s the thought that counts”? How many times do you say this to a person before you grow a bit frustrated? What expectations do you have that aren’t being met?
- Do you ever think God looks at us that way? What are God’s expectations of us as we grow “older” in our faith?

Read Matthew 6:10.

I. The Focus of the Kingdom

As you reflect on verse 10, read Acts 1:6-8

- What was the expectation of Jesus’ ministry by his contemporaries – was it escaping the world into heaven?
- What is the destination of the kingdom of God? What is therefore the destination of believers in Christ? Does this surprise you?
- Read Romans 8:20-21. How does this impact your view of the earth and the work we do in it?
- Optional: If the teaching of abandoning the earth for heaven doesn’t come from the Bible, from where did it originate?

II. The Fight for the Kingdom

Reflecting on verse 10 we see that at least in one sense, the kingdom is not yet here.

- Read Joshua 8:1-7. What happens when two kingdoms come into conflict? The enemies occupying the land of Promise were still being fought in the time of David. In fact, this was one of the principle things David accomplished.
- Read Daniel 2:31-44. The rock is Jesus and the mountain is the church. What will it one day do?
- Read Ephesians 6:10-20. What does this battle look like today?

III. The Finish of the Kingdom

The 2nd half of verse 10 describes what the final kingdom will look like.

- What does it say? What “will” of God does Jesus mean?
- What office leads our country and who authorizes his power? How does this differ from a Kingdom?
- Read 1 Samuel 8:10-17. What does a king have the right to do? Are you ready to view all aspects of your life under the authority of a king?
- Read Luke 21:41-44. What happened to Jesus when he submitted to God’s will? What does this mean for you when you submit to God’s will?

Wrap-up

- Read Luke 19:11-27. If you are a servant of the king, what are your “talents” that he has given you to invest? How are you investing them now?