

Lord's Prayer # 4
Your Kingdom Come and Your will be done

As we continue our look at the Lord's Prayer, I want us to look now at two related petitions, or parts of the Lord's Prayer:

Your kingdom Come and Your will be done.

God's kingdom, God's will are not always easy to explain.

To help you understand what is God's kingdom and what it means for God's will to be done, I want to show you a clip from the British comedy TV series, *Keeping Up Appearances*.

In case you are not familiar with *Keeping Up Appearances*, it's a comedy dealing with the daily life of Hyacinth and Richard Bucket.

While their last name is Bucket, long ago, Hyacinth decided that it's not pronounced Bucket, but Bouquet, and as she has to correct those who mispronounce the name, It's French.

Hyacinth is a very strong willed person who wants to rise above her background and upbringing.

She is interfering, who compulsively attempts to organize other people's life as she attempts to climb the social ladder.

Her husband, Richard, is a meek, but hen-pecked person who yearns to be left alone, but must accept the fact that Hyacinth wants to remake him into a husband fitting her.

Perhaps the best way to summarize this comedy, is watching the following scene of Richard driving.

SHOW THE CLIP

Like everything else, Hyacinth can't let Richard drive without offering her help!

Hyacinth never listens.

If you watch the show, you know that it is Hyacinth who

- pick out Richard's clothes, -- even what he is going to wear as he works in the garden,
- she decides what he is going to eat -- even if it's breakfast,
- and, of course she knows how he should spend his free time, now that he is retired.

Their marriage is not a democracy.

It's not a 50/50 relationship.

It's 100 / 0 in favor of Hyacinth.

I suppose that's how some might see these two petitions.

Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done.

Do these petitions indicate to you that you are asking God to run your life like Hyacinth runs Richard's life?

Does it seem to you that God is some backseat driver in your life?

**Your Kingdom Come
and
Your Will be done.**

It might be funny to watch how Hyacinth takes charge of Richard's life.

But what about us?

When you pray -- **Your Kingdom come and Your will be done** -- are you giving up your freedom and independence?

And if so, at what cost?

Throughout Matthew's Gospel you hear this phrase, the **kingdom of God**.

Repent – the kingdom of God is at hand!

What is God's kingdom and His Will?

God's kingdom is not some political rule, marked with boundaries, etc.

Praying for God's kingdom to come is not a prayer for God to open up the sky and come down here to Washington and take over the White House and Congress.

We are not praying that God would establish some Theocracy.

Theocracy is a form of government in which a deity is the sole ruler or that the deity rules directly through his representatives.

We see attempts to create theocracies in countries like Iran and Saudi Arabia where the clerics, religious leaders, are political leaders and say they are ruling on behalf of their god, Allah.

That is not what we Christians are praying for when we say, **Your kingdom come, you will be done**.

We're not asking for God to set up some religious state.

Rather, it's a prayer that God's kingdom will become apparent in my own life.

It's a prayer of submission, on my part.

This is a prayer in which you are asking God to work as He sees fit in your life so that your life will be transformed into the life He wants you to have.

God's kingdom came into existence the moment Jesus died on the cross.
God's kingdom started the moment Jesus rose from the grave.

By his dying and rising, Jesus ushered in God's kingdom.

The kingdom of God is God's gracious and loving rule in our hearts.

God's kingdom is nothing more than letting God be in charge of my life, not like Hyacinth who is the backseat driver, but letting God drive while you remain silent.

It's letting God drive because you believe that He, God, knows what is best for me and because you are convinced that God does love you.

God's kingdom is unique and special.

It's based on love and respect, not on power, force, or fear as we see in the kingdoms of this world.

God's kingdom is working in the lives of individuals, bringing people into a saving relationship with Jesus.

God's kingdom is taking the work that Jesus did on Calvary and making it yours.

I'm part of God's kingdom.

And so are you.

We became part of God's kingdom at Baptism.

In Baptism, God joins us to the death/resurrection of Jesus.

We die to sin and are raised as his forgiven sons/daughters.

Each week

- as we listen to His Word,
- confessing our sins,

- listening to his Word,

Each week

- as we gather as his children around a special meal He has given us,

**we acknowledge that we are part of
God's kingdom.**

When you pray **Your Kingdom come** - you are acknowledging God's kingdom.

As part of God's kingdom, we gladly seek out God's will for our lives.

Life is not about you or me.

It's all about God and His work for us.

Your will, Lord, not my will.

These two petitions, **Your Kingdom Come and Your Will be done** is a prayer.

We are telling God that **we know he's in the driver's seat and we won't be a backseat driver.**

You are admitting that God knows what's best for you and you are willing to accept it.

Did you know that is what you were saying when you spoke these lines?

Soren Kierkegaard, the Danish Lutheran philosopher said that any Prayer is "a silent surrendering of everything to God"

That is never truer than when we pray

Your kingdom come and your will be done. Amen.