**Matthew 6:5-15**

I. Introduction

A. Jesus is giving us a prayer that will shape our hearts over time. Praying his prayer is a way of “putting on Christ.” It’s a prayer that might not “fit” the current state of our hearts, but it’s a prayer we grow into.

B. Notice “On earth as it is in heaven” (v. 10)

We are asking God to bring heavenly realities (in heaven his name is perfectly hallowed and his will is perfectly done) to bear in the tangible situations of our lives on earth.

II. Hallowed be your name

A. Explanation

1. = May you cause your name to be kept holy. May you reveal how unique and incomparable you are so that your greatness would be known and experienced.

2. God’s holiness is always experienced in heaven (Rev 4:2-8), so the prayer is that people would get a glimpse of his greatness (his love, wisdom, power, holiness, etc.) here on earth that God might receive the worship he deserves.

3. Most of us have had experiences of God “hallowing his name” in our lives (when he reveals himself to us in a particularly powerful way), and our response is praise and gratitude.

B. A child’s passion for his/her father’s greatness.

1. Dallas Willard connects this petition with the “Father” of v. 9. Accordingly, children naturally think their dad is the strongest, bravest, wisest person in the world, and they want the world to know how great their dad is, and they are alarmed to discover that others don’t think their dad is the best.

2. We are invited into this child-like zeal for our heavenly Father’s greatness in the world.

3. Consider Jesus’ passion in the temple when his Father is not receiving the respect he deserves: “How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market place!” (Jn 2:16)

 C. Consider what it would look like to pray this prayer in specific contexts

1. Father, hallow your name in our Sunday morning worship service. What would it look like for us to fervently pray that prayer and for Him to answer that prayer?

2. Father, hallow your name in my son’s/daughter’s life. That’s more important than their proper behavior, good grades, success in sports, great job, etc.

III. Your kingdom come, your will be done

A. God’s kingdom (in most basic terms) is the realm where God is king, where his revealed will is done perfectly, where his values and priorities reign.

B. God’s will is always done perfectly and joyfully in heaven (Ps 103:20-21), but on earth other values and priorities hold sway.

C. So the prayer is for God’s will, values, and priorities to break into this reality

“On earth” (in our homes, neighborhoods, churches, schools, workplaces, cities, etc.)

C. Again, this is rooted in a child-like trust in our heavenly Father and a confidence that everything is better when he’s in charge

D. Of course this prayer assumes we have some sense of what God’s will is. We have to study his Word do know what his will is for life, finance, marriage, relationship, work, etc.

E. Consider what it would mean to pray this prayer in certain contexts

 1. Lord, your kingdom come on my street

 2. Lord, your kingdom come in my place of work

IV. Conclusion

A. This prayer will start a mini revolution in my life

1. If the cry of my heart is for God’s name to be hallowed and his kingdom and will to come around me, I will start natural working for God’s values and priorities in this world (in my street, work, home, school, etc.)

2. I will see my specific contexts with eyes for the kingdom, and will have a passion to see change take place

B. This prayer will start a mini revolution in my heart

1. This prayer is in conflict with some of the natural desires that well up in my heart

a. I have a desire for my name to be hallowed

= to make a name for myself so that people see me as great, significant, successful, likeable, etc.

 b. I have a desire for my kingdom to come and my will to be done

= I desire to be in control and to have my comforts realized and my plans and agendas realized

c. So this prayer involves a real surrendering to God’s plans and to the reality that he is at the center of the universe

2. But this prayer is ultimately a very freeing prayer

a. We spend so much undue energy and anxiety focused on ourselves, and there is great freedom to letting go of that and focusing on God and his priorities

b. This prayer is ultimately the deepest cry of our hearts because when God answers this prayer (when he truly hallows his name and brings his will) we will experience such deep satisfaction and fulfilment

C. So let’s walk into this week with this prayer in our hearts and on our lips

**Discussion Questions**

1. What has been your relationship with the Lord’s Prayer historically? For example, has it been a meaningful prayer to you, or has it been an overly familiar prayer that has carried little meaning for you?

2. Consider the comments made on Sunday regarding the first petition of the Lord’s prayer: “Hallowed be your name.” How did you gain a new or deeper understanding of that first petition on Sunday?

3. How would an average day look different if your goal was to make God look great instead of yourself?

4. Do you have any practical and specific ways to implement this prayer in your life in the coming weeks?

5. Spend time together praying this prayer for some specific situation or person.