

Sermon preached by Canon Jim Holbeck, at the Healing Service
at St. Andrew's Cathedral on 30th November 2005.

Reading: Matthew 6:9-15
Topic: "**Your Kingdom Come**"

Mt 6:10 *your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*
"**Your kingdom come!**" That's a cry that many of us have cried out from time
to time.

The world around us. We look at the mess the world is in and we cry out for
God to do something about it. *May Your kingdom come to sort out this mess.*
Family and friends. Or it may be that we long to see God at work in the lives
of our friends and family and we cry out "*Your kingdom come and make these*
loved ones of mine what You want them to be."

A new helpful translation (CEV) "*Come and set up Your kingdom, so that*
everyone on earth will obey you, as You are obeyed in heaven." Wouldn't it be
good if everyone "out there" obeyed God? Wouldn't it be good if we obeyed
God in everything to His glory.

1. WHAT "THE KINGDOM OF GOD" MEANS.

It means God's rule over people.

It means submitting ourselves to Him in every aspect of our lives. It means
letting Him do in our lives and through our lives what He wants us to do. God
was always meant to be the Master of His creatures but they rebelled against
His rule. Even His people Israel rebelled when they wanted a King they could
see like the kings of the other nations. In doing so they were rejecting the Lord
from being king over them. 1 Sam 8:7-9. But God promised in 2 Sam 7:12-16
that though He was allowing an earthly king over His people, He would
establish a throne, a kingdom that would never come to an end. It was later
associated with the role of the Messiah, in Is 9:7, "*Of the increase of his*
government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and
righteousness." In a sense God was already in control, Psa 103:19 *The LORD*
has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. But
there would come a time when His kingdom would come more fully, when the
Messiah came. This anointed one (the Christ) would ultimately bring in the
fulfilment of the kingdom in which all the enemies of God would be completely
overcome, e.g., Dan 6:26 *He is the living God and he endures forever; his*
kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end.

2. THE KINGDOM HAS COME IN JESUS.

John the Baptist declared that in his preaching as he prepared the way for the
coming of the Christ, the Messiah. Mat 3:1, *Repent for the kingdom of*
heaven is at hand. Jesus was soon to begin His ministry and people were to
get ready to respond to the One who would bring in the kingdom of God.
Jesus as He began his ministry, taught that the kingdom had come in Himself.
Mat 4: 17ff *From that time Jesus began to preach saying, "Repent for the*
kingdom of heaven is at hand."

It was to be a different type of kingdom. People didn't understand it. They
thought Jesus was weak and pathetic without realising that He was always in
control. When His enemies thought they had captured Him, He told them, "*My*

kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place." John 18:36. Right throughout Jesus' ministry people were rejecting Him as king. It took a thief hanging on his own cross to recognise that the Jesus hanging in weakness on a cross near him, was a king. Luke 23:42 *Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."* Who looked less like a king at that moment, hanging on a cross in weakness and shame?. But He was the King. Many of the religious people who should have recognised Jesus as King, rejected Him. Sinners like the thief, accepted Him.

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom in His ministry.

Mat 4:17, and Mat 4:23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. Cf., Mat 9:35 The good news of the kingdom was that Jesus had come to set people free from the penalty of their sin, from its power over them in their lives, and ultimately from its presence.

He demonstrated the power of the kingdom in His miracles, signs and wonders.

He challenged the people as he ministered to them in the power of the Spirit, *Mat 12:28 But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Lk 11:20.*

He demonstrated the power of the kingdom in His death, resurrection, ascension, being seated at the right hand of God in heaven, and in sending the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 1, Luke described how Jesus, after His resurrection and before He ascended to heaven, appeared to His disciples for 40 days, and spoke to them about the kingdom of God. He promised that they would soon receive a new power to live and to witness when they were baptised with the Holy Spirit. Some days later they received the Spirit of God into their lives and were transformed. Peter explained that this was the fulfilment of Jesus' promise about the kingdom. *Acts 2:36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.* Whether people like it or not, Jesus Christ is Lord, and King, and they need to submit to Him.

3. WE NEED TO ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS.

Jesus said that people needed to be born again to enter into God's kingdom. He said to Nicodemus, John 3:3-5, *"I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. ... no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.*

How could that happen? By putting one's faith in Jesus for salvation. Jn 3:14-15, *"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, (on a cross for sinners) that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him, should not perish but have eternal life."* The apostles and disciples preached the kingdom, as they preached Christ in whom the kingdom could be found. Philip. *Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as*

*he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised, both men and women. Paul. At the end of his life, Paul was still preaching the kingdom which had come in Jesus. Acts 28:23 *From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus ... Acts 28:31 *Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.* If you believe in Jesus and receive Jesus as Saviour you enter into the kingdom. It's not on the basis of our goodness, but through faith in what God has done for us in Jesus. It is open to those open enough to God to enter in. That's what Jesus said about the most unlikely people who were entering the kingdom. *Mat 21:31-32 I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you (they believed what John the Baptist said about me) However a lot of religious people were missing out, and even after when you saw this you did not afterward repent and believe him.***

4. WE NEED TO LET GOD ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM RULE IN OUR LIVES

We let Him do that as we submit ourselves to Him as our Lord, Master, King. It means offering to Him all we are and have in full surrender. When we pray ***Your kingdom come*** we are inviting the Lord to bring His kingdom power into every part of our lives as we present them to Him.

We offer Him our bodies and our minds as vehicles through which He can manifest His love and power. Paul put it like this, *Romans 12:1-2. I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

God is interested in your bodies. It is through your body that you do His will for you. In your body you go where He wants you to go. Through your body you say what He wants you to say. Through your body you do what He wants you to do. That's why you can ask Him to heal your body so that you can do His will for you through the body He has given you.

God is interested in your mind. He wants you to love Him with your mind so you can be open to all He can teach you through His word. He wants us to be able to think clearly and not have minds that are out of control. He wants to heal your minds so that old hurtful memories lose their power over you. He wants to change some of the attitudes or mind-sets in your mind that He knows are destructive and unhelpful.

As Paul also wrote in Rom 12:1-2, we present our bodies to him and also allow Him to transform our lives by renewing our minds. *Rom 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, 3 but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

It is the renewed healed mind that enables us to recognise the will of God for us.

I believe God wants to heal us so that we can do His will. That's what the writer to the Hebrews seems to be saying in the doxology on Heb 13:20-21, *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that*

which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

He equips us to do His will. It's interesting the word the writer uses for "equip" is a word that means to mend, to repair, to restore, to prepare. The Lord works within us to mend us, repair us, restore us, prepare us with everything good so that we can do His will and please Him.

My attitude is Lord may Your kingdom come in my life so that I might be healed (mended, repaired, restored, prepared) in body, mind and spirit to be able to do the things You want me to do.

Is that your attitude? Do you want to be healed in every way to be able to do His will? Are you in the kingdom? You can be, by accepting Christ into your life as your Saviour and Lord. To what extent is the kingdom in you? How open are you to allow God to touch you in His love and with His kingdom power mend you, restore you, prepare you, heal you, so that you might serve Him to His glory?

Would you pray "***Your kingdom come, in me***"?