

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

You Asked For It, Pt. 14

Heaven & Earth, Now & Then

We began this series in January, based on Christ telling us to ask the Father for the kingdom of heaven here on earth...

- ***Now**, among us who follow Him together*

.....
***Matthew 6:9-10**, “**Our Father** in heaven, hallowed be Your name. **Your** kingdom come. **Your** will be done **on earth** as it is in heaven.”*

.....
We affirmed that He doesn't tell us to ask for things He will not give us.

.....
***Matthew 7:7-8**, “**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. **For everyone who asks** receives, and he who **seeks** finds, and to him who **knocks** it will be opened.”*

.....
*In the last message the Lord defined **who the citizens of His kingdom are...***

- *And who they are not*

.....
***I John 3:22 & 5:14-15**, And whatever we ask we receive from Him, **because we keep His commandments** and **do those things that are pleasing in His sight...** Now this is **the confidence that we have in Him**, that if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

***Psalms 50:16-17**, But to the wicked God says:*

*“What right have you to declare My statutes, or take My covenant in your mouth, seeing **you hate instruction** and **cast My words behind you**?”*

.....
***Matthew 5:3**, “**Blessed are the poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

- *We don't occupy, or define **His** kingdom on **our** terms*

.....
*Then, in **Matthew 13:24-52 & 20:1-16** Jesus defined **eight examples** of what **His answer** to our prayer looks like in our world.*

- ***We can ask** in prayer, **knowing what it means***

.....
**The enemy plants weeds in the earthly field of God's kingdom*

- *It's **not our job** to weed them out*
- *He will do that **when He returns***
- *Our job is to **be the environment** they can be transformed in*

.....
His kingdom on earth is about sowing good seed (People of His Word**)*

- *Like a mustard seed, **the life of faith starts small***
- *But **it grows to become** a source of blessing to many*
- *It also becomes **seed bearing***

We are **kingdom change agents, like yeast, in God's field, the world we live in*

- Yeast is tiny, smaller than mustard seeds
- Yeast is not changed by the environment it is placed in
- We are "**influencers**" of **who Jesus is** among other people

.....
*John 13:15-17, For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, **blessed are you if you do them.***

.....
*John 20:21, So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! **As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**"*

- Yeast influences **the lives it touches personally**

.....
We are God's kingdom **treasure, deposited **beneath the surface** in His field*

- The treasure is **His heavenly kingdom** here on earth
- **To be found** by others, **just as we did**

.....
*I Corinthians 6:11, And such were some of you. **But** you were washed, **but** you were sanctified, **but** you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

.....
Kingdom people are like **merchants seeking **pearls of His treasure***

- Willing to spend all we have to obtain them
- To transact **God's kingdom commerce**

.....
*Pearls represent **beauty, wisdom & great value***

- The gates of the New Jerusalem are made of pearls
- The gates of the city where **wisdom & authority** are transacted

We are **His kingdom dragnet, used to bring in **Every Kind.***

- **We draw them** into the environment of His kingdom...
- **To be influenced by Christ in us**
- As with the weeds, we are not called to sort them (**James 2:1-9**)
- He will take care of that at His return

.....
*Before the next example, Jesus asked, "**Did you get that?**"*

- **Matthew 13:51**, "Have you understood **all these things?**"
- They said "Yes, Lord." How about us? - **Do we?**

.....
***Vs. 52**, Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe **instructed** concerning **the kingdom of heaven** is like a householder who **brings out of his treasure things new and old.**"*

.....
Have we received **new things into our treasure from His teaching here?*

- Do the new things **displace**, or **add to** the old things?
- Do the old things **deny a place to**, or **receive** the new things?
- Because **the kingdom includes them both**

.....
What if some of the new things are people different from ourselves?

- Is one of the new things **deliberately inviting people who are different?** (**Vs. 47-50**)
- Will old things **retain their value & make room for the new?**
- Will the new things **be patient** with the old?

.....
*Are we willing to **become that dragnet**, and receive them as Jesus did?*

- We'll see all sorts of people in church **if the dragnet is doing its job.**

.....

Jesus revealed seven kingdom applications up to this point

- The first one (**wheat & weeds**) set the environment for the others
- But none have been in direct conflict with the world's ways so far

.....

The kingdom operates on its own rules (**20:1-16**)

- Human notions of entitlement & fairness do not apply
- He doesn't reward us in comparison to each other
- Christ subjected Himself to God's definitions for life. (**Matt. 4:1-11**)

.....

Romans 12:2, And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect **will of God**.

- **Conformity to the world** can go unnoticed if we're not watchful

.....

Jesus did not come to take over this world

- **That comes later**

.....

He came to take over our life!

.....

"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

.....

Jesus doesn't negotiate in His kingdom!

- He doesn't accommodate, He doesn't compromise
- He doesn't contend or argue, He doesn't defend or justify

.....

Jesus told Pilate, **"My kingdom is not of this world.** If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight... **but** My kingdom is not from here."

John 18:36

.....

As citizens of the kingdom not of this world...

- **What are we looking forward to?**

.....

He told those of us now here in His behalf to...

- **"Occupy till I come." (Luke 19:13)**
- Occupy = Transact My affairs, until I return

.....

Luke 12:32, **"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."**

.....

Acts 1:4-8 & 11, And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, **"which,"** He said, **"you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."** Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, **"It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be witnesses to Me** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, **He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.** And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? **This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."**

.....

Matthew 24:27, **"For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."**

.....

I Thessalonians 4:15-17, For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

.....

II Peter 3:10-13, But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

.....