

Your Kingdom Come

A message from Scott Moore, Lead Pastor, One Hope Church, Tuscaloosa

Sermon preached Sunday, October 18, 2026. Week 4 of the seven-week series "Teach Us to Pray."

Scripture: Luke 11:2 (base text). Also read: Daniel 2:44–45; Luke 17:20–21; Matthew 6:10; Luke 19:37–39, 41–42. Scripture text below is quoted from the on-screen graphics shown during the sermon; the pastor referred to the NIV's wording of Luke 17:21.

Watch the full sermon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPz9lexUwus>

Summary

This fall our conversation at One Hope is simply prayer. In week four we came to three words from Luke 11: "Your kingdom come." Three words that can change everything. To hear them the way Jesus' first followers did, we have to sit in their seat. They had longed for God's kingdom for generations while living under a Roman kingdom built on dominance and forced submission. Jesus offered a kingdom that comes when we voluntarily surrender our allegiance to Him as our king.

Sitting in their seat

Jesus was not forcing this prayer on anyone; His followers asked Him to teach them. His answer would challenge how they lived every day, because prayer is not just the words you speak. They would have to decide where their loyalty and allegiance would lie.

They already had a deep-seated desire for God's kingdom. Centuries earlier, Daniel recorded these words: "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever" (Daniel 2:44).

And life was hard. The kingdom they knew was Rome: submit your land, submit your money, submit your life, submit your allegiance, or else. So when Jesus said, "Your kingdom come," everyone listening would have said, "Yes, this is what we want."

In your midst, and within you

The religious leaders wanted it too. In Luke 17, "on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, 'The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, "Here it is," or "There it is," because the kingdom of God is in your midst'" (Luke 17:20–21).

The kingdom they had been praying for was already in front of them. They just didn't see it.

I have always understood this to mean that the kingdom of God is found in Jesus, and He came to transform this world to look more like heaven, as Matthew records: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). That understanding is true, but it is not complete.

The word Luke uses can mean "in your midst," which is how the NIV puts it, but it can also carry the meaning "within you." The kingdom of God not only changes the world around you; it is changing you. It is supposed to change your personal world. The kingdom of God does not come through dominance or forced submission. The kingdom of God comes when I voluntarily surrender my allegiance to Jesus as my king.

The king they rejected

In Luke 19, as Jesus approached Jerusalem, the crowd of disciples praised God: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" (Luke 19:37–39). In other words: you are not the king, and we reject what you are bringing.

Jesus' response: "As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, 'If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes'" (Luke 19:41–42). They were rejecting the very thing they had prayed for their whole lives, and it broke His heart.

The old stadium

I grew up in Ontario loving the Buffalo Bills, and last Christmas our family went to the second-to-last game ever played in the old stadium before it was demolished. It was built in the 1970s and was filled with memories. The new one is so much better, and yet people are still complaining. They want their old stadium back.

People have a hard time letting go of things they love, even when something better is being provided. We love familiarity and comfort. I am not talking about a football stadium. I am talking about the kingdoms we have built. Following Jesus in His new kingdom was never supposed to be comfortable.

Three takeaways

1. **The kingdom of God comes through surrender, not force.** It comes when we voluntarily surrender our allegiance to Jesus as our king.
2. **The kingdom is not only around you; it is within you.** It is meant to change the world you live in and your personal world.
3. **Change your prayers.** The prayer is not "Will You bless my kingdom?" or "God, I need You to build this kingdom up." The prayer is "May Your kingdom come to this earth. May Your kingdom come to my life."

If He is your king, the choice has already been made. You are already a yes person to whatever Jesus brings to your life. What king and what kingdom are you going to give your allegiance to?

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