

"The Danger of Hypocrisy"

Part 17

Matthew 6:1-18

Introduction: Tonight we continue our study of the Sermon on the Mount and to be more specific our study of the outline for prayer which Jesus gave to His disciples in Matthew 6:9-13.

Now so far we have looked at 6 petitions which are listed in this outline. The first 3 of these petitions are focused completely upon God.

1. Hallowed be thy name.
2. Thy kingdom come.
3. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.

The next 3 pertain to you and me as believers in Jesus Christ.

4. Give us this day our daily bread.
5. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
6. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Tonight in our study of Matthew 6:9-13 we have come to the doxology of the outline Jesus gave to His disciples.

Notice Matthew 6:9-13

Our focus tonight is on verse 13.

Matthew 6:13b

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

The verse before us tonight is the last point in our outline.

VIII. The Sovereignty of God - *"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen"*

When I look at this verse the first thing I see is that in my prayers there is to be an acknowledgement of 3 points:

1. The kingdom is His.
2. The power within the kingdom is His.
3. The glory belongs to Him.

Let us take some time and look at these 3 points one at a time. I want to share with you what I see within these verses.

I. As we pray for and do all we can to advance the kingdom we are serving God.

"For thine is the kingdom"

As believers we have several choices when it comes to service.

a. We can be servants of sin.

Romans 6:16

¹⁶ Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Now as children of God it is God's desire that we not serve sin and He has given to us the power to have victory over sin and its grip on our lives.

2 Peter 1:3

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³ *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

1 John 3:5

⁵ *And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*

Jesus came to take away our sins that is to set us free from the penalty and the power of sin.

But the truth of the matter is even as believers we have the danger of serving sin.

b. We can be servants of self.

This is probably the category that most believers would fall under. It is sad but there are many believers who pass through this life never learning how to gain the victory over the sin nature. They live on the spiritual roller coaster year after year. They have a beseting sin in their lives and they seem to gain victory for some time and then in their weakness they fall into it again. They then get free only to do the same thing over again and that is the pattern in their lives.

They are servants of the flesh though they really do not want to be. They are like king Ahasuerus in the book of Esther under the control of Haman. They have not yet come to the place where they have had a change of government in their lives. They are flesh led believers and not Spirit led.

The results of this can be devastating. Remember:

1. Moses never was able to enter the promise land.

2. David never reached his full potential.
3. Peter will always be remembered as the one who denied the Lord.

c. We can be servants of Satan.

It is very possible for a believer to fall away from fellowship with the Lord and find themselves in the hands of Satan as a tool he can use to hinder the ministry of the church or be used to lead others into sin.

This can be seen in the way in which Satan used Eve to lead her husband into sin.

Genesis 3:1-6

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

² And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

³ But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

⁴ And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

⁵ For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

d. We can be servants of God.

Paul tells us what it is to be a servant of God.

Ephesians 6:5-7

⁵ *Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;*

⁶ *Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;*

⁷ *With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:*

As we pray for and do all we can to advance the kingdom we must remember we are serving God. There is no greater privilege!

**II. When the kingdom is advanced it is only through God's power not ours.
"and the power"**

As we serve God and we see the kingdom advanced as people get saved we must always remember it is the power of God that causes people to be born again. We have no power to save anyone nor do we have any power to advance the kingdom. It is only the power of God that will change a life and advance His kingdom.

Let us consider some verses which speak of the power of God.

Romans 1:16

¹⁶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

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1 Corinthians 1:18

¹⁸ For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:5

⁵ That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Notice the words of Paul to the church at Corinth concerning spiritual growth.

1 Corinthians 3:4-7

⁴ For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

⁵ Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

⁶ I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

⁷ So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Vines dictionary tells us the word "increase" means "to grow" which is an effect of God. When someone comes to Christ or when a believer grows in their faith as they sit under the teaching of the Word of God it is all due to God's power working in the individual. The person sharing the Gospel or teaching the Bible has no power to save or to cause growth in an individual.

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Therefore we must serve in a way in which we do not hinder the power of God. I want to show you a passage where we can see how to keep from hindering the power of God.

1 Corinthians 9:1-12

[There were enemies of Paul who attacked him and falsely accused him in his ministry of abusing his office and the believers at Corinth were beginning to listen to the critics of Paul. Therefore, in verses 1-8 Paul explains his "rights" as a minister of the Gospel.]

Am I am not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?

² If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.

³ Mine answer to them that do examine me is this,

⁴ Have we not power to eat and to drink?

⁵ Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?

⁶ Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working?

⁷ Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

⁸ Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?

[Now Paul points to the Old Testament to validate his stand.]

⁹ *For it is written in the law of Moses, thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?*

¹⁰ *Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.*

[Now he brings the thought right into the lives of the Corinthians.]

¹¹ *If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? ["carnal things" refers to material things.]*

¹² *If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? **Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.***

Paul would not use his rights to take anything from anyone because he did not want to hinder the Gospel which is the power of God. So from this we see that in order to keep from hindering the power of God as we serve him we must set aside our personal rights and be content with that which God has provided for us. This again is death to self.

III. When the kingdom is advanced all glory is to be given to God.

"and the glory forever"

Now understanding that we are serving God in His kingdom and if the kingdom is advanced through our service it is the power of God, then we must be careful not to accept any of the glory. All glory belongs to God.

In Genesis 1 all light was created on day 1 then on day 4 the heavenly bodies were created to reflect the light which already existed. That is

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a beautiful picture of how the glory of God has already existed from eternity past and in our bodies we are to reflect that glory. The sun, moon and stars cannot produce light they can only reflect the light which was created on day 1. We can do nothing in our own power. When the kingdom of God is advanced it is because the power of God was working in and through us therefore we take no credit but we only reflect the glory of the One who has supplied the power.

Conclusion:

This doxology should be at the end of our prayers to keep it all into perspective. As His name is hallowed, His kingdom advanced, His will is done, He meets our needs, He pardons our offences, and He leads us in paths of righteousness we are reminded our lives are all about God and not us.