

Theology Through the Eyes of Jesus – Lesson 3

“The Alignment of Wills: Aligning Our Hearts with God’s Agenda”

Summary

Praying “Your kingdom come, Your will be done” is an act of surrender that aligns our desires with God’s eternal agenda. We long for Christ’s future kingdom while submitting to His present rule in our lives. This prayer calls us to release personal control, embrace God’s wiser plan, and actively cooperate with His purposes.

Scripture

Matthew 6:10

1. Introduction

Opening Thought

Every one of us prays instinctively for God to change something—our circumstances, our relationships, our stress, our needs. But Jesus teaches us that before we ask God to change anything around us, we must ask Him to change something within us.

“Your kingdom come, Your will be done” is the most counter-cultural and counter-self line in the entire Lord’s Prayer. It is a declaration that God’s agenda is better than ours, God’s timing is wiser than ours, and God’s rule is safer than our control.

This line confronts the deepest tension in the human heart: we want God’s blessing, but we often want our own will.

Jesus invites us into a different posture—one where prayer becomes the place we surrender our preferences, our timelines, and our assumptions about what is best. It is the place where we stop trying to get God to endorse our plans and instead ask Him to align us with His eternal purposes.

Ask yourself this sobering question:

“Where do I resist God’s will because it conflicts with my own?”

Signs That Your Will May Not Be Aligned with God’s Will

- Resist Scripture — I avoid or reinterpret verses that confront my desires.
- Pray for God to Bless My Plans — Instead of seeking His will, I seek His approval for mine.
- Feel Persistent Inner Turmoil — Anxiety, restlessness, or confusion dominate my decision-making.
- Delay Obedience — I procrastinate, negotiate, or rationalize instead of obeying.
- Cling to Control — I struggle to release outcomes, people, or timelines to God.

- Choose Comfort Over Conviction — I avoid hard obedience because it disrupts my preferences.
- Justify Sin or Compromise — I make excuses for attitudes or behaviors God has already addressed (moral relativity).
- Ignore Wise Counsel — I avoid people who might challenge my choices.
- Want God’s Blessing Without His Lordship — I want God to help me, but not to lead me.

Alignment with God’s will is revealed not by what we say in prayer, but by how we obey, surrender, trust, and respond when God’s will conflicts with our own.

2. When, What and Where of Will Alignment

WHEN: “Your Kingdom Come” — Submitting to Christ’s Rule Today

The kingdom is not just a destination; it is a dominion—God’s rule expressed through His people. The kingdom is both **future** and **present**.

Future: We long for Christ’s return and the full restoration of all things.

Present: We submit to His rule in our decisions, desires, and daily life.

To pray “Your kingdom come” is to say:

“Reign in me.”

“Reign through me.”

“Reign over everything I try to control.”

WHAT: “Your Will Be Done” — Surrendering Personal Control

This is not passive resignation—it is active surrender. To pray this is to acknowledge:

God’s will is wiser than mine.

God’s plan is better than mine.

God’s timing is more perfect than mine.

Biblical Illustration: Jesus in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:39): “Not my will, but Yours be done.” The Son of God Himself models the surrender He teaches us to pray.

WHERE: “On Earth as in Heaven” — Active Cooperation with God

Heaven is the place where God’s will is done perfectly, joyfully, and immediately. This is not a prayer of escape—it is a prayer of engagement. To pray this is to ask God to make our lives look more like heaven:

Justice where there is injustice

Peace where there is conflict

Love where there is division

Obedience where there is resistance

3. Practical Steps for Alignment of Will

Principle	Application
Daily Surrender	Begin each day with a simple prayer: “Father, align my will with Yours today.”
Release Control	Identify one area where you cling tightly—finances, relationships, decisions—and intentionally place it under God’s rule.
Practice Kingdom Values	Live out justice, mercy, forgiveness, and compassion in your immediate context.
Obey Promptly	Heaven’s obedience is immediate. Ask: “Where am I delaying obedience?”
Pray With Open Hands	Hold your plans loosely. Let God reshape them as He sees fit.

4. Discussion Questions

- Where do you feel the greatest tension between your will and God’s will?
- What does it look like to live under God’s kingdom rule right now?
- What is one area where God is inviting you to surrender control?
- How can you bring justice, peace, or love into your immediate environment this week?
- Why is obedience essential to praying “Your will be done”?

5. Closing Thoughts

“Your kingdom come, Your will be done” is not a prayer of defeat—it is a prayer of freedom. It frees us from the exhausting burden of running our own lives. It frees us from the illusion that we know best. It frees us from the anxiety of outcomes we cannot control.

This prayer is the doorway into peace, because peace is found not in getting our way but in trusting God’s way. When we pray these words, we are saying:

- Father, rule in me.
- Father, rule through me.
- Father, make my life a place where divinity touches humanity.

And as God answers this prayer, our **desires** begin to shift, our **priorities** begin to change, and our **hearts** begin to beat in rhythm with His eternal agenda. The greatest transformation in prayer happens not when God changes our circumstances, but when *God changes our will.*

Challenge for the Week: “Honor His Name Daily”

Let this be your quiet prayer throughout the week: “Father, align my will with Yours today.”