

# PRAYER

Good Shepherd  
Sermon-Based Study Guide  
Matthew 6:9-10 | January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
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## I. Introduction to this Study

When Jesus teaches us to pray, *"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,"* He invites us into a prayer that reshapes both our hopes and our lives. This prayer is not only about the future, when God makes all things new, but about the present. It is about how God's reign takes root in this world, beginning with us.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus proclaims the good news of the kingdom of God. This kingdom is not defined by borders or geography, but by the active reign of God. This reign that arrives through Christ, continues to grow, and will one day be complete. To pray for God's kingdom is to ask that His will would shape our desires, our decisions, and our obedience as we live between what God has already done and what He has promised to do.

## II. Connecting with One Another

What are some images that come to mind when you hear the phrase "kingdom of God"?

## III. Study the Text

*Read Matthew 6:9-10*

- What does it mean to pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven?
- How does this prayer challenge a faith that is mostly private or inward?

*Read Matthew 4:23*

- What does it tell us about Jesus' mission that the kingdom is central to His preaching and teaching?
- Why do you think Jesus calls this message "good news"?

*Read Matthew 5:3 and Matthew 7:21*

- Who does Jesus say enters the kingdom of heaven?
- Why does Jesus connect obedience to entering the kingdom?
- How does this shape the way we understand faith and discipleship?



Read Matthew 7:24–27

- How does Jesus connect hearing His words with doing them?
- In what ways does obedience reflect trust rather than earning God's favor?
- Where might God be inviting you to bring your will into alignment with His?

#### IV. Reflect and Respond

- *Where in your life does God's will feel most difficult to accept or obey right now?*
- *What is one area where you sense God inviting you to deeper alignment with His kingdom?*
- *How does this prayer move us from passive belief to active participation in God's work?*
- *What is one small, concrete step of obedience God may be calling you to take this week?*

#### V. Digging Deeper: Praying with the Early Church

*Christians throughout history have prayed this same prayer, asking God to shape their lives according to His kingdom.*

##### **A Prayer for the Reign of Christ**

—from *Origen of Alexandria*

May Your kingdom come, O Lord,  
by the destruction of all that is sinful within  
us  
and by the reign of Christ alone in our  
hearts.

Let nothing rule in us but You. Amen.

##### **A Prayer for Ordered Love and Obedience**

—from *Augustine of Hippo*

O Lord,  
command what You will,  
and give what You command.

Order my loves,  
that I may love what You love  
and will what You will,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

##### **A Prayer for Humble Obedience**

—from *Clement of Rome*

Grant us, Lord,  
to obey Your will in all things,  
to walk in humility and patience,  
and to do what is pleasing in Your sight.

Establish us in faith and love,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

##### **A Prayer for a Life That Reflects Christ**

—from *John Chrysostom*

Lord,  
help me not only to pray rightly  
but to live rightly.

May my life give witness  
to the kingdom I profess,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

