

Digging Deeper

Intercession

Matt. 8: 5-13

⁵ When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. ⁶ “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?”

⁸ The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

⁹ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. ¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment. ¹

The Centurion intercedes for his servant.

Why do we need to intercede?

¹ [*The New International Version*](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Mt 8:5–13.

Dig

The Sermon on the mount (in which we find the Lord’s prayer) is Jesus’ instructions for Kingdom living. Within the Lord’s Prayer we find the phrase, “Your Kingdom Come”. As Jesus is teaching us how to pray, we learn that praying for the Kingdom is an essential part of Kingdom living

Kingdom Living requires Kingdom Praying – The Big Idea, if you are in the Kingdom, you must be praying for the kingdom.

Your Kingdom come

Progressive, Now and not yet.

1. The Kingdom is coming; Jesus returns and rules over a new heaven and new earth – In eager Expectation

2. The Kingdom is here,

Luke 17:20-21 (In Your Midst, Among you, Within)

A kingdom requires: King, Land, People.

We are the Kingdom of God

3. The Kingdom is Growing

The Gospel is being shared; People are coming to know Jesus. His kingdom is growing.

Jesus is again challenging us to live a life in his Kingdom. As believers, we are his kingdom. When we pray Your Kingdom Come,

Digging Deeper

we pray for each of these things, in expectancy for his return and restoration, for the well-being of our fellow brothers and sisters, and for those that do not yet know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour that one day they would be part of this wonderful kingdom.

Why does this matter?

We pray for the Kingdom not just out of duty but out of *love*.

Check out this great article by Christianity Today highlighting the 3 reasons that make us want to intercede for others.

Depravity, Sanctification, and the Priesthood of All Believers

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2016/september-web-only/three-reasons-why-we-cant-afford-not-to-prayer-for-each-oth.html>

Why did the Centurion come to Jesus? Was it because he knew what Jesus was going to do? Did he have a guarantee that Jesus would give him a yes? No, he did not. He came to Jesus simply because he cared for his servant, because he loved his servant, and wanted to see him well.

We pray because we know that God has the power to do these things. My grandma said in the matters of praying for healing, “I pray for healing as long as there is breath.” We pray, because as people of the Kingdom, we pray for the Kingdom to come, for the kingdom to grow, for Christ's kingdom to reign in each of our hearts and our lives because we love these people.

Kingdom Living Requires Kingdom Praying

How can you put this into practice?

- Pray Ridge Meadows Prayer Walk – Pray over the homes in your neighbourhood - Pray the Kingdom Comes
- If you Commute – Go through a prayer list every morning. – Label names on the dashboard of your car!
- Fill out the 5 People in 2020 card. Keep it somewhere that you will see it regularly: on your fridge, your desk, the visor in your car, or maybe as your bookmark in your bible!

Pray for these people. Invite them to Cornerstone. Invite them to a Christianity Explored course.

We each lift up those that we love and dearly want to see brought into the kingdom. Pray that the kingdom would come to these people and that they will want in.

Also lift up each other to Jesus in prayer as some of us need prayer for healing, others strength, others the power to persevere. Pray for your church staff, your leadership team, your pastor, our marriages, our children, our church. Bring those you love into God's presence today.



Make sure to check out the Prayer Course video on Intercession at: <https://prayercourse.org/session/intercession/>