



Life Groups in Central Telford Parish

Spring 2017 "The Lord's Prayer"

Week beginning 5th March 2017

C - Passion - Trusting and Obeying the King

The Aim of this Session

When we talk about the Kingdom of God and what it means to be a citizen of it, we recognise that citizenship comes with rights and responsibilities. The balance between our "rights" as an individual to think for ourselves and our "responsibilities" to obey the King is an important one in our earthly state – what about in heavenly kingdom terms? What does that mean in reality?

- **Welcome**

What do you get most passionate about in life?

- **Worship**

Read Hebrews 10:19-22 and remember what Jesus has done for you in the forgiveness of sin and the opportunity to have an intimate relationship with God. Pause as you are encouraged to:

- *enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus*
- *experience the new and living way he has opened for us*
- *draw near to God with a sincere heart*
- *knowing he has cleansed us from a guilty conscience*

Say the Lord's Prayer together, slowly and phrase by phrase, that you may enter into your time together knowing the privilege of doing so and the wonder of God's love inviting you to meet with him.

- **Word**

Would you describe yourself as ...

- ❖ Obstinate and don't like to be proved wrong?
- ❖ Easy Going and quite happy for someone else to be seen to be right?
- ❖ Someone who likes an argument?
- ❖ A bit of a doormat who always gives in?
- ❖ Or just someone who is always right?!

How do you feel ...

- ❖ When you realise you are wrong in a relationship?
- ❖ When you have to do something which is not what you would have chosen to do?
- ❖ When you recognise that God is challenging you on something?

- ❖ What do you understand "Free Will" as meaning in reality in your life?

Read Matthew 12:46-50

- Why might his family have been there?
- How do you think Jesus said the words in verse 48?
- What is Jesus saying about human relationships in verse 50?
- What does Luke 9:57-62 say about this?
- How does God feel about rejection? See Luke 14:17-24.

- What did it mean for Jesus in real terms? See Luke 21:41-44
- ❖ What examples can you give where doing God's will challenges us to sacrifice our own will?
- ❖ Are there some from your own experience? Share them.

Read Romans 12:1-5. The biggest challenge for many of us in circumstances where we are seeking God's will, is to recognise it when we find it and have the confidence and faith to follow it through.

- How do we "offer our bodies as living sacrifices" in real terms (v1)?
- How do we relate that to "worship" (v1)? What does "worship" mean?
- What does "not conforming to the pattern of this world" mean in practical terms (v2)?
- Why does our mind need to be transformed (v2)?
- In what ways does having all these things in order enable us to test and approve God's will (v2)?
- Is God's will always "good, pleasing and perfect" (v2)?
- If we are walking in God's will as we have described above, what effect does that have on the life of the Church (vv3-5)?
- And how does that affect the way we pray?
- Especially, how does that affect our understanding of John 14:14?

• Walk

These are very serious issues. What we have seen in this study is that our commitment to God needs to deepen day by day as we grow in our faith and that our relationship with him is the number one priority in life. God never tells us to do something which would contradict what he says in the Bible and so we can always test things with Scripture. Sometimes that is easy (eg he will never tell us to murder someone or commit adultery!) but sometimes we have to struggle and wrestle with things to find out the truth of what he wants in our lives. Doing so will only strengthen our understanding and conviction of his will for us. The temptation is that we all-too-easily mistake our will for Gods and decide that he *must* want what we want – but that may not be the case. We never said it was easy to do this!

- ❖ Is anyone in the group seeking God's will in a certain area?
- ❖ Is anyone struggling to understand God's will for them in a particular area of life?
- ❖ Is anyone trying to understand the consequences of what they believe to be God's will for them?
- ❖ Is anyone feeling that they need to seek God's will where they have been ignoring it up until now?

Be bold and brave – share with one another and discuss what you sense God is saying. Pray for any other specific issues people are facing in the Life Group. "***You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.***" (Isaiah 26:3 NIV)

