

# SCRIPTURES FOR 10/8/06 LIFEGROUP LESSON

## Matthew 6:10

your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

## Matthew 13:1-9. 18-50

1That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9He who has ears, let him hear."

18"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19When anyone hears the message about the **kingdom** and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. 22The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. 23But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

## The Parable of the Weeds

24Jesus told them another parable: "The **kingdom of heaven** is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

27"The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

28" 'An enemy did this,' he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

29" 'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. 30Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.' "

## The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

31He told them another parable: "The **kingdom of heaven** is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

33He told them still another parable: "The **kingdom of heaven** is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

34Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. 35So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."

## The Parable of the Weeds Explained

36Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

37He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. 38The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

40"As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 41The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his **kingdom** everything that causes sin and all who do evil. 42They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

## The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

44"The **kingdom of heaven** is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

45"Again, the **kingdom of heaven** is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

## The Parable of the Net

47"Once again, the **kingdom of heaven** is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. 48When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. 49This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous 50and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

## Matthew 7:20-21

Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

## John 6:38-40

For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

## Romans 8:26-28

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

## Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed

## THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE

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**NOTE TO LEADERS:** All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

### INTRODUCTION:

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Jeff shared this week how we, as a church, need to allow God's kingdom to come and His will to be done. He drew primarily from Jesus' teaching to the apostles about how to pray (commonly called, "The Lord's Prayer), explaining that Jesus didn't intend it to be a prayer that we all mimic, but instead taught it as a pattern. In this time of dependence on God's provision (i.e., the building project), Jeff focused on seeking God's will and allowing for His kingdom...

### HIS KINGDOM COME...

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*Have someone read Matthew 6:10.*

Later in Matthew 13:1-50, Jesus explains the kingdom of heaven with a series of parables that begin, "The kingdom of heaven is like..." First, as seed sown in different types of soil, then as seed planted but followed by the seeds of the enemy, then as a mustard seed – first small, then like a tree, then as yeast worked into dough, then as treasure found and grasped, then as a pearl of great price, then as a net that catches good fish and bad.

So the kingdom of heaven is described as "knowledge," "our destiny," "growth," "leaven," "treasure," "a pearl," and again as "our destiny." While, scripture clearly describes Heaven as a real place, the kingdom of heaven is much more. In Matthew 21:31, Jesus tells the hard-hearted chief priests and elders that, because tax collectors and prostitutes believed and repented, they were "entering the kingdom of God ahead of you." This does not mean they were dying quicker.

Which is your favorite of Jesus' portrayals of the kingdom of heaven and why?

Based on these parables, what do you think Jesus meant by, "Your kingdom come?"

What are we praying for when we pray that?

### HIS WILL BE DONE...

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*Have someone read Matthew 7:20-21.*

Jesus tells us that in order to participate in the kingdom, we must do the Father's will. That is why we pray, "on earth as it is in heaven." If we expect to enter the eternal kingdom, we need to start living our eternal life now. We need to stop pretending that we have a million years to get it right. Otherwise, we are like the man who built his house upon the sand (which is the very next passage, incidentally).

In Matthew 18:14, Jesus explains that "the Good Shepherd" would leave the 99 to find the one lost sheep, because "it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish."

*Have someone read John 6:38-40, Romans 8:26-28, and Romans 12:2.*

We don't have to know exactly what God's will is in every situation, but we have to want His will to be done. The Holy Spirit will intercede to plead our case. But, we can discern His will, also.

So what are we praying for when we say, "Your will be done?"

Do we need to know God's will to pray this?

If we pray, "God's will be done," who does it? Us? God?

### CONCLUSION

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Basically, in this building renovation project or any other venture of the church, we need to seek God's kingdom and His will, we need to pray that God's kingdom overtakes more and more enemy strongholds and that His will is readily apparent to us, and we need to pray that if either is not the case at WCC, that we can understand why and correct it.

If you look around, you will see God's church losing ground and gaining ground everywhere. It is our commission as believers to stay in the fight and keep pushing the lines further and further back, until Jesus returns. Then He will say to us, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world." (*Matthew 25:34*)