

Sunday 28th July 2018 The Lord's Manifesto
Luke 11:1-13 Genesis 18:20-32

Over the last couple of months there has been a lot of talk at home about visa's, work permits, residential status...

Di and Georgie, separately, have been applying and WAITING for work permits for Kenya. At one stage Di had 3 applications for 3 different forms of visa to be able to enter Kenya. Georgie has waited well over a year for her work Visa.

Maria, who wants to go on studying here in UK has been concerned about what Brexit may mean but applied for and has been given something called 'Settled Status'...

All of these are temporary. All 3 of them are more concerned about their Nationality - being citizens of Great Britain and Federal Republic of Germany

And even more important to them than their nationalities is the fact that they are children of God's Kingdom; co-heirs with Christ.

Lord's prayer is, in some way, a manifesto for God's Kingdom

Jesus was the disciples teacher, their rabbi. At that time each rabbi would have their own statement of belief if you like, a short statement setting out the core of their teaching

So when the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray, Jesus gives them this as an example of their core beliefs that should guide them in their prayers

And it was real AND rebellious

Remember Jesus and his followers were living in a country occupied by the Romans

Herod was the local Roman ruler and the Jewish religious leaders were in Jerusalem

They lived in a world of oppression, exploitation and control Sound Familiar??

Jesus starts his prayer with

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your Kingdom come

Our Father in the highest heavens, holy is your name.

YOUR KINGDOM COME, your will be done ON EARTH as it is in heaven

This was a new stance for the disciples, a new Christian manifesto proclaiming a new reality

We pray that prayer EVERY service we are in and many of us pray it at home

Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...

How do we pray that??? How do we say those words? What is in our hearts and minds?

Thy Kingdom come..... (Say in different tones)

God's Kingdom coming on earth!!!!

It's about the very ground we walk on being changed because the rule of God is drawing near

Remember those words from Luke 10 that have become familiar to many of us

Tell them 'the kingdom of God has come near' (10:9&11)

This week we have had a change in Prime Minister

The atmosphere, the direction, the ethos of our country has changed already in just a few days with the hopes / fears / expectations of our new Prime Minister. He is human

In the Lord's prayer we are talking to God. We are asking Him
THY KINGDOM COME THY WILL BE DONE !!!!!

This prayer that Jesus gave to his disciples, this manifesto, was a daily reminder that their true citizenship was not specifically in heaven BUT rather that this heaven was becoming a reality on earth

It's a prayer that makes us step up into God's Kingdom rule and reign but also calls this kingdom to come down in power

It is a prayer that changes the atmosphere, direction, ethos of us and where we live.

There are things that we have to submit to in our earthly kingdom - we pay our taxes - I hope! - we may our water bill and keep the law

We are citizens of UK but as Christians we pledge our allegiance to the kingdom of God

The Lord's prayer is not a prayer of passivity but a prayer of passionate intent to see more of God becoming a reality on earth

It is a cry, a plea to God to crack open the darkness and oppression of this world and to change it to be heaven on earth

The prayer asks for daily bread - sustenance from heaven

How we and this world needs that

The prayer speaks of the practice of grace - forgive us... as we forgive others

Forgiveness is all about the practice of grace - God's grace to us and His grace within us

The prayer is about people faithfully doing what is right - deliver us from evil

Evil does not make sense in God's kingdom

This week I read these words

When you pray...

It's so much more than a style or practice
or a time of the day.

It's not boring, it's not one way,
It's not for a certain kind of person.
it's life altering and heart-moulding
More than raw emotion.

It's communion with the unlimited, unfathomable Father.
It gives us unlimited access to the throne room of the King.

Pray The Lords manifesto prayer now
Sing it later

(Thanks go to Spring Harvest 2019 book 'Unlimited: A manual for prayer')