

## Prevailing in Prayer II- “Thy Kingdom Come I”

Prayer honors God; it dishonors self

*E. M. Bounds “Purpose in Prayer”*

Prayer is communion with God.

Prayer is dialogue with God.

- Vision is sharpened through prayer.

Consider **Matthew 6:9-13** the Lord’s prayer pattern and model.

**Matthew 6:9** After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

### I

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name... vs9

- A revelation of His Name:
- There are singular and compound names.
- Who has He been?
- Who is He now?
- Who do you need Him to be?

### II

Thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven... vs10

- A declaration of His Kingdom:

- Your throne and dominion come...
- Your sovereign rule come...
- Your desire come...

## **Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done, on Earth as it is in Heaven**

Every year I do cultural context map. They are a prophetic insight into the issues the church will be confronted with and in 2018 and 2019 the hottest topic which brought the most discomfort among churches, leaders and people was **racism** in the community and the church. **Racism** and racial disparity, in the community, has led to over policing in the black and brown community. These factors have to vigilante style encounters with block watch people, fatal so-called citizen's arrest and death. There is a general fear, intimidation and regular concern with any encounter with police and the black community.

The rise of racism, white supremacy and neo Nazism.

*A racist is a person who believes in one group's, racial superiority over other groups and sets in public policy, structures and systems and enforces the notion and belief of superiority and will seek to annihilate, destroy or illuminate any resistance to that notion and belief.*

This issue divides and destroys nations, people and groups.

- The sin of racism must be exposed, uncovered, repented of and dismissed.

*<sup>NKJ</sup> **Matthew 12:25** But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.*

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere” MLK

*“Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”*

“To ignore evil is to become accomplice to it” MLK

The recent killing of **George Floyd by Minneapolis police** brought grief and outrage to people around the world, including people in Franklin County. This slow, brutal killing by a police officer while his colleagues watched came shortly after the killing of other African Americans, including **Breonna Taylor, killed by police in Kentucky** and **jogger Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia**, by white armed civilians allegedly making a “citizen’s arrest.” This has been a horrifying string of killings of unarmed Black people at the hands of police (or ex-police).

Again, and again, unjustified killings of people of color, in our community and nation, have ended without accountability or recourse. B.R.E.A.D. joins the cries of our brothers and sisters in our community and we feel called to respond.

“A riot is the language of the unheard” MLK

Violence against African Americans is a horrific part of our nation’s history since before it was founded: **from slavery, to lynching, to mass incarceration, often condoned or committed by police. It is no wonder this has resulted in generations of distrust that exists between law enforcement and the communities of color they are called to serve.** That distrust is reinforced when the community sees no police response to large groups of men (mostly Caucasian) shouting their anger over restrictions imposed because of the coronavirus pandemic and proudly displaying weapons to make their point.

Thank you for your messages asking what are we as a church doing. Thank you for your concerns for our city. **We have a justice ministry at Rhema which works year-round doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly with our God, Micah 6:8.** We work with 40 congregations including several Jewish synagogues addressing the local systemic issues leading up to the current protest in our city. In April through the first or second week in May, I generally preach justice as we lead up to Passover and our Nehemiah Action every year. We as a city justice movement BREAD turn out more organized people for peaceful justice action than any other organization in the country. Our actions are to bring long term public change to systemic problems.

That being said, the mayor, most city council persons and the Chief of Police have refused to meet or move on our recommendations. If someone in the body has access to these public decision makers who have refused to meet with representatives of 40 congregations please contact the names mentioned below. Over the last two Monday nights we have met via Zoom as a Rhema justice team to continue addressing these community issues. These meetings happened before and will continue after the current protest, demonstrations and explosions in our city. These meetings and action will continue. I always ask “After the March What?” Dr Roger Henry “Let’s do justice together.”

If you desire to get involved more and help us more in these efforts please connect with: Lois Ferguson, Jerry Rhodes, Diane Banks or our organizer Clarissa Epps. We welcome you. We have not stopped adding action to our prayer.

In addition, the church in Columbus has had several prayer gatherings over the past week. I will forward the peaceful, credible, purposeful prayer gatherings I have attended and would endorse our churches presence and participation.

Our effort as Rhema’s justice ministry are a response to our prophetic call to do justice.

“To ignore evil is to become accomplice to it” MLK

“A riot is the language of the unheard” MLK

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.” MLK

### **Personal experience:**

When I turned 16 and began to drive 2 men at UGBC had “**the talk**” with me.

When my sons and daughter turned 16, I had “**the talk**” with them.

I have had police follow me down my driveway ask “why are you at this house?” “What do you do, to afford a house like this?”

My son has been stopped and ask “How is it you are driving a vehicle like this?”

Now I have a grandson who is turning 16, then a granddaughter and then another grandson.

My prayer “*Thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven*”.

*The temporary discomfort of a few churches, leaders and members feel a few moments during the preaching moments, are minimum, compared to the daily discomfort the black community experiences every day.*

*“Thy kingdom Come”*