



Links Players

Teach Us To Pray - Lesson 3: Your Kingdom Come

Your kingdom come. (Luke 11: 2b, ESV)

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

(Matthew 6: 10, ESV)

ARNIE! Has there ever been a more beloved golfer? Certainly, there are professional golfers aplenty who are highly regarded, even idolized. But, overall, has there ever been anyone who electrified the crowds like Arnie? Maybe Tiger, but only maybe.

Arnie didn't come by the moniker "The King" arbitrarily. During his prime, no one held the attention of golf fans like Arnold Palmer. Even non-golfers were enamored with this charismatic, pant-hitching, virtuoso. With swashbuckling fearlessness, Arnie didn't just play a course, he attacked it. Even Seve, with all his panache, was a distant second by comparison.

Jack and a few others exceeded Arnie's accomplishments, but hands down, the most popular golfer who ever lived was the legendary Arnold Palmer. We saw him on Wheaties cereal boxes and the cover of Sports Illustrated. We turned on the television and there he was selling everything from motor oil to Cadillacs. With all due respect to Elvis, Arnie was "The King."

But here's the thing, while Arnie was the king of golf and Elvis was the king of rock and roll, Jesus Christ is the King of kings. Arnie and Elvis were metaphorical kings. Jesus is the King of the whole world. When the "roll is called up yonder," everyone, including Arnie and Elvis, will bow on bended knee before the world's rightful King.

When Jesus teaches us to pray, "your kingdom come," he is instructing us in matters of utmost importance. He is calling us to participate in the advancement of that which he intended in the beginning (Genesis 1:26-28). He is inviting us to join him in the march of redemptive history (Matthew 28:18-20).

Jesus' kingdom arrived at his first appearing (Matthew 4:7, et al). His kingdom is spreading throughout the earth between his first and second appearing (Matthew 13: 31-33). And his kingdom will come

in its consummated form when all rebellion will be extinguished (1 Corinthians 15: 24-28).

Jesus is, remarkably, including us in the advancement of his reign when he teaches us to pray—"your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." It is acknowledged by all that his will is being done perfectly in heaven. Our prayer should be that his will would be done on earth in the same way.

Have you ever noticed the trajectory of this prayer? Rather than flying off to heaven, he is bringing heaven to earth. We will see the curse lifted off the earth (Romans 8: 20-21). We will live forever in a new heaven and a new earth (2 Peter 3:13). This earth is his by Crown Rights; he created it and he redeemed it. He will not abandon it to evil. For those who follow Christ, the future could not possibly be brighter.

Prayer – Lord, cause your reign to spread throughout the earth in the power of the preached gospel. May your reign advance in and through our lives!

READING - Hebrews 2: 5-11; Matthew 28: 18-20; Matthew 13: 31-33; Luke 11: 2-4.

OPENING QUESTIONS: Do you have a favorite Arnie moment or story? Is Arnie rightfully referred to as The King?

1. What do we learn about Jesus' reign in **Hebrews 2: 5-11**? Who rules the world to come? (vs.5), How many things are subjected to him? (vs. 8), Do we currently see everything subjected to him? (vs.8), What cause is attributed to Jesus being crowned with glory and honor? (vs. 9).

2. After reading **Matthew 28:18-20**, how much authority is given to Jesus? Where is that authority located?

3. Jesus' kingdom is likened unto two things in **Matthew 13: 31-33**. What are those two things? Why is that important? *Hint: We are to pray for kingdom growth.*
