

Kingdom Come

Truth and Consequences

We all have a tendency to avoid hard truths and things we would rather not think about. All of us have the ability to ignore or avoid consequences if we do not want to have to experience those consequences. But there will come a time in all of our lives when the truth of what we've chosen and who we've become will be unavoidable. God's grace saves us from the eternal consequence of sin (Hell), but we still have to deal with the temporal consequence of sin. Through our choices, we can either make God's Kingdom more of a reality (by saying yes to God's will in our lives), or we can refuse to conform our will to God's and avoid living in the Kingdom.

Discussion Questions

1. Who is one person in your life who has died? What do you remember most clearly about them?
2. Have you ever found yourself avoiding the truth because you could "get away with it"?
3. When you think about making Jesus "pay the price" for your sins, what is your initial reaction? Are you relieved? Do you feel grateful? Do you feel guilty? Does it make you feel resentful? How come?
4. God's kingdom is wherever His will is done. This means that we all can play a part in God's Kingdom coming into this world. What are some things that make you hesitate when it comes to the idea of doing God's will in all things?
5. Have you every been frustrated and anxious about discovering what God's will is? If so, does reflecting on Micah 6:8 help? How so?
6. Do you have any questions about Purgatory? Do you have a love for the souls in Purgatory? Do you see Purgatory as a good thing or as a negative thing? (reminder: Purgatory is not as much a place of "punishment" as it is a place of God's mercy!)
7. What is one thing that you find throws you off track when it comes to being able to freely and confidently say "Thy Kingdom come...Thy will be done"? Are you afraid that God isn't an expert whom you can trust?

God in Real Life

1. God speaks to the prophet Micah and tells him that he is called to fulfill God's will in three areas. **To do the right.** How can you make sure that you address a place in your life where you are currently struggling to do the right thing? **To love goodness.** Take time this week to write down the good things in this world that bring God joy when you

love them in the right way. **To walk humbly with your God.** When are you going to make time each day this week to begin (or continue) to walk as God's friend?

Be Transformed

The Bible is filled with examples of praising God in the midst of battles:

- A. The Catechism talks about the dignity and responsibility of our free will and choices by stating: "God created man a rational being, conferring on him the dignity of a person who can initiate and control his own actions. "God willed that man should be 'left in the hand of his own counsel,' so that he might of his own accord seek his Creator and freely attain his full and blessed perfection by cleaving to him.'" (CCC 730)
 - B. The Catechism also talks about the Kingdom of God in these powerful terms: "In the New Testament, the word *basileia* can be translated by "kingship" (abstract noun), "kingdom" (concrete noun) or "reign" (action noun). The Kingdom of God lies ahead of us. It is brought near in the Word incarnate, it is proclaimed throughout the whole Gospel, and it has come in Christ's death and Resurrection. The Kingdom of God has been coming since the Last Supper and, in the Eucharist, it is in our midst." (CCC 2816)
 - C. We need to unite our will to God's in the same way the Son united His will to the Father's: "Although he was a Son, [Jesus] learned obedience through what he suffered." How much more reason have we sinful creatures to learn obedience - we who in him have become children of adoption. We ask our Father to unite our will to his Son's, in order to fulfill his will, his plan of salvation for the life of the world. We are radically incapable of this, but united with Jesus and with the power of his Holy Spirit, we can surrender our will to him and decide to choose what his Son has always chosen: to do what is pleasing to the Father. In committing ourselves to [Christ], we can become one spirit with him, and thereby accomplish his will, in such wise that it will be perfect on earth as it is in heaven." (CCC 2825)
 - D. Still, we need God's grace to do this. Too often, we rely only upon our own strength. Saint John Chrysostom once said: "Consider how Jesus Christ] teaches us to be humble, by making us see that our virtue does not depend on our work alone but on grace from on high. He commands each of the faithful who prays to do so universally, for the whole world. For he did not say "thy will be done in me or in us," but "on earth," the whole earth, so that error may be banished from it, truth take root in it, all vice be destroyed on it, virtue flourish on it, and earth no longer differ from heaven."
 - E. Christ's first words during his public ministry were, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand". Repentance and God's Kingdom go together.
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To the Heart

You have been told, O man, what is good,
and what the LORD requires of you:
Only to do justice and to love goodness,
and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)