

## Title: Thy Kingdom Come: Surrendering Every Part of Life to the Lordship of Christ

Sermon Summary: The sermon calls believers to move beyond a compartmentalized or nominal Christian faith and toward a life fully surrendered to the lordship of Jesus Christ. Drawing from the confrontation between Elijah and King Ahab in 1 Kings 18, the pastor challenges the congregation to examine whether they have abandoned God's commands and followed modern-day idols, much as Ahab did with the Baals. Using the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6 as a framework, the message emphasizes that praying "thy kingdom come, thy will be done" is not a ritual recitation but a personal declaration of total surrender. The sermon also addresses holiness as a practical, daily pursuit rather than a legalistic checklist, and urges believers to be intentional about their walk with God in every area of life, including work, family, civic responsibility, and personal devotion. Grace is affirmed throughout as the enabling power that makes this kind of surrender possible.

### Key Points:

- God is fully aware of what is happening in the world and within every human heart, and he disciplines those he loves in order to draw them back to himself
- Paul's response to his thorn in the flesh models a mature faith that embraces hardship rather than demanding relief, because God's grace is sufficient
- King Ahab serves as a warning of what happens when a leader of God's people abandons the Lord's commands and follows idols, trading true kingship under God for self-serving compromise
- Believers are called to holiness because God is holy, and this is not legalism but a natural outgrowth of genuine love for Christ
- The Lord's Prayer is meant to be personalized, not memorized, and the petition "thy kingdom come, thy will be done" is a daily act of surrender inviting God to reign over every area of life
- Many American Christians have divided their lives into compartments, with

faith occupying only a small portion, rather than allowing Christ to be Lord over all

- True saving faith involves more than mental agreement; it produces visible change and fruit that others can observe
- Witnessing and making disciples is a command, not an option, and it requires intentionality, vulnerability, and a life that reflects the light of Christ
- The altar is not just a physical location but any place and moment where a believer bows in surrender to God, and this must be a continual practice rather than a one-time event
- Civic engagement, including voting, should be approached through prayer and biblical discernment, with particular attention to how candidates align with the sanctity of life and moral issues addressed in Scripture

#### Scripture Reference:

- 1 Kings 18:16-18, in which Elijah confronts King Ahab, declaring that Ahab's abandonment of God's commands and pursuit of false gods is the true source of Israel's trouble
- Matthew 6:9-10, the Lord's Prayer, in which Jesus instructs his followers to pray for God's kingdom to come and his will to be done on earth as it is in heaven
- 2 Corinthians 12, in which Paul describes his thorn in the flesh and God's response that his grace is sufficient
- Romans 12, referenced in connection with the believer being called to be a living sacrifice
- Matthew 6:33, in which Jesus instructs his followers to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness

#### Stories:

- Paul and the thorn in the flesh: Paul pleaded three times for God to remove a persistent affliction, and God responded by declaring that his grace was sufficient; Paul then chose to embrace hardship, insults, and persecution as occasions to experience the grace and power of Christ
- King David: Described as a man who continually sought God even through profound moral failure, David's willingness to repent when confronted by the prophet Nathan and his faith that God's forgiveness extended even beyond death are held up as a model of a heart after God

- King Ahab and Elijah on Mount Carmel: Ahab accused Elijah of troubling Israel, and Elijah responded by declaring that it was Ahab's abandonment of God's commands and pursuit of the Baals that brought judgment; the prophets of Baal failed to call down fire, and God answered Elijah's prayer, demonstrating the supremacy of the one true God
- Job: Referenced briefly to illustrate that not all hardship is the result of personal sin; God permitted Satan to bring suffering upon Job in order to accomplish a greater purpose
- The pastor's experience at a motorcycle shop: The pastor described building relationships with unchurched men at a Harley-Davidson shop, where his non-judgmental and genuine approach drew men to ask questions about faith, eventually leading to lasting friendships and changed lives, including the story of how he met Tommy and Lindsey