



November 9, 2014
Chapel Hill Family Reunion
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The Revolutionary Disciple: Prayer-full Matthew 6:9-13

Every great revolution has a battle cry. Every revolutionary leader has a catchy phrase or song that rallies people to hope for the outcome they're fighting for. What battle did this belong to? "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord"? (Civil War) How about "Freedom!" (Wallace) Well, the revolution of Jesus has a battle cry, too... and it is tucked right in the middle of perhaps the most familiar prayer in the world taken right out of the Sermon on the Mount. As we continue in these passages in Matthew, see if you can hear the battle cry – what is the cause of the revolutionary disciple of Jesus?

Matthew 6:9-13 *"This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."*

This is the word of the Lord.

What is the cause of the revolutionary disciple of Jesus? "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven!" We may not think of it as revolutionary because we pray it so often. But think about it. We are asking God to upend this world by bringing his perfect, heavenly will to this broken earth. And not just someday... right now! Heaven on earth now... that's what the Sermon on the Mount is all about.

This revolutionary message of Jesus is telling us what the will of God in heaven brought to earth looks like. You've been reminded of this this week if you're doing the Revolutionary journal with us. Remember Chapter 5? Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. This is the will of heaven. You are the salt and light of the earth. The earth with no darkness—this is God's will. That you would be pure of heart, not lusting, not having any anger, that you would love your enemy... this is Heaven on Earth.

This is not an unattainable message, and that is what is so revolutionary about this passage. With Jesus, the will of heaven has come to earth. Because Jesus is God in the flesh teaching about these things; it is his presence that makes all

these things possible! So it's all the more revolutionary when Jesus says that he is going to send his Holy Spirit to us! With the Holy Spirit in us, we get to participate in bringing the will of God in heaven here on earth. We can pray this prayer and believe that every line of it is available to us because Jesus has made the Kingdom of Heaven available to us.

That is what this weekend is about. We have mission partners—others who call God our Father—around the world who are bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to their part of the earth. They are believing that the violence in Burma is not God's will; that the fatherlessness in Swaziland is not God's will; that the confusion of identity in San Francisco is not God's will; that the diminishment of the person that happens in prison is not God's will. And they are not content to believe that someday God will make things right. They take Jesus at his word; they pray and they are acting out that prayer in claiming that right here, right now God is going to retake some of the battlefield that the Devil thinks he's won. And this is only the start.

That is what we are a part of! This is our family's battle cry! We believe that God's world is bigger than Gig Harbor, and believe that God's Kingdom can come right now in Gig Harbor and Thailand and Cambodia. This is the message; there is a spiritual reality that we are praying to see come to pass here in our reality! God is using us to answer this prayer! So let's pray for God's will on earth to be as here, now as it is in heaven. Will you pray our revolutionary prayer with me, intending to pray and act out this prayer right here, right now:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Let us bring back up our mission partners and pray over them this morning. We have a family gift we would like to share with you. Our quilters have made these crosses with the fabric of many nations, reminding you that you are members of the family of Christ all over the world. If you had a hand in making this gift, would you please stand? If you quilted or gave your own fabric? Thank you. Let this be the family banner that you wave as we share this family battle cry. We want to pray over you—that God's heavenly, perfect will would be wrought in our lives as we get on point with what God is doing in bringing heaven to earth in the places he has you.

Megan: *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Julie: *We long to see the will of heaven—in which all the slaves are set free—brought to bear in Cambodia. We long to see all the orphans brought into family in Swaziland. We long to see your heavenly, perfect peace in Thailand.*

Megan: *Give us today our daily bread.*

Julie: *We ask, Father, for you to provide the finances The Table needs in San Francisco. We ask you to provide the relationships we need to bring your light into WCCW.*

Megan: *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

Julie: *Forgive us as a church for the many ways our purchases contribute to human slavery. Forgive us for the apathy that has kept us from praying boldly for your will to be brought to earth.*

Megan: *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

Julie: *We recognize, God, that this is a battle cry because we are at war in the spiritual realm against evil. We pray for your will to prevail, that you would strike down the enemy who lies to your people in San Francisco, who brings violence against your people in Cambodia, who brings illness into the communities of Swaziland. Deliver us, Lord, we pray. In Jesus' name, Amen.*