Dear Reader,

I am new to producing reading sermons. So, if you have any suggestions as to how I might improve my format or what I include – please email me at cdanielwilson@gmail.com. **I will warn you, that I do not use short sentences**. I will endeavor to work on this over time, but I don’t naturally write that way. However, you can easily break most of my longer sentences into 2 or 3 smaller ones where I have “…” or “–“ or commas. If you do the work on making it into smaller sentences – feel free to email it to me, and I am happy to share your work with others. I do have some of these available which people have sent me. I will eventually make them available as part of the normal manuscripts.

I have left my sermon manuscript formatted the way I normally write and read my sermons. They are colourful and written in conversational English. If you are a grammar nazi – then you will be frustrated with my punctuation and phrasing. However, once you read it out loud, you will normally be able to tell what I meant to say. SERIOUSLY, READ IT OUTLOUD. You will also see that I use a good bit of bold, italics, underlining and different colours to signal what are the most important things to say, and also to make it easier for my eye to pick up my place in the middle of paragraphs. I would recommend that you keep as many of those things as possible to help you keep your place. However, you will probably want to increase the spacing between lines. I highly encourage you to commit as much of the introduction or children’s illustrations to memory as you can, so that these can be delivered to the congregation with maximum eye contact.

**Where possible, I highly recommend that you listen to the sermon as I preached it at either the Nelson website or the website of North Shore.** I recommend that because that will also help hear the places where I added or skipped over material in the manuscript, and the places where I clarified my meaning. I have edited bits and pieces which I thought most important, but I have not sought to include all the additional material that comes to me while in the pulpit. I would practically have to use a transcription service for that. However, I hope and pray that this sermon will be a blessing to you and to your congregation. To God be the Glory!

Blessings in our Lord, Pastor Daniel Wilson

#

**My Suggestions for the Order of Service**

Song before the service: #1

***Prayer of Preparation – Lord bless, strengthen to serve/worship you!*** Call to Worship: PSALM 95 vs.1,2,3

RESPOND in Faith: ***Our Help is in the name of the Lord our God, the Creator and Sustainer of all the earth!*** ***May*** Grace, Mercy, Peace and Love ***be yours*** from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

We are the servants of the Lord, and so, Let us praise Him in song - **#317 *“Crown Him with many crowns”***

***We will profess our faith using Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 26 & 28*** *Page 21-22* ***Forms books*** *Please be seated*

 *Heidelberg Catechism Lord’s Day 48 page 53*

*Let’s cont. to worship as we sing* **Song: #19 “The Spacious Heavens declare” *Vs 1,4-6***

***Congregational Prayer***

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:24-43**

*Let’s cont. to worship as we sing* **Our Song of Prep: #511 “Our Father, clothed with majesty” *Vs 1,2,3***

***Sermon Text:* Matthew 6:5-15 *Sermon Title: “Conquer this world!”***

***Let us now sing a* song of Response Dwelling*–*#393 “I love Thy kingdom, Lord”**

***May God the Father*** *bless you & keep you,* ***May God the Son*** *turn His face toward you & be gracious to you,* ***May the Holy Spirit*** *lift up his countenance upon you & give you peace!* ***Amen***

 ***Doxology*: #531“To Him Who sits upon the throne”**

# Evening Sermon: “Conquer this World!”

Text: Matthew 6:5-15 Reading: LD48 Matthew 13:24-43

**Introduction:** Children: Have you ever seen an Acorn? They are little seeds from an Oak tree. Do acorns look anything like an Oak tree? If you held it up and compared the Acorn to the full-grown Tree, would you automatically say – AHA – that will be an Oak tree one day? Not at all! The seed looks ***nothing*** like the final tree – and yet if you plant that acorn, and you give it water and sunshine, it will eventually grow into a big tree.

We see a similar thing within God’s Kingdom – for right now we see God’s Kingdom in “Seed Form” It is just an Acorn. ***But one day*** – in God’s perfect timing it will be a beautiful Kingdom (a full-grown tree) for all eternity in the new heavens and earth. When you pray ***your Kingdom come*** in the Lord’s prayer, you are asking God to make that Acorn of a kingdom, grow up and blossom into a full tree! **You are asking God to finish Conquering this World!**

(**Review**) We are continuing to work through the Lord’s Prayer: We have seen that the children of God alone have the privilege of calling God their Father, and trusting Him to provide for all their needs. **Last week,** we saw that we are to pray for God’s name to be Glorified and exalted in our lives and in all the world – ***but we also saw how irreverent it is to pray Hallowed be your name while living in such a way that might cause God to be blasphemed!*** *Indeed, we need to change the way we think, speak and act in accord with our prayer,* that God might be exalted in all the earth!

***This evening, as we turn to this next request (Your Kingdom Come) we are asking God:***

***Please Conquer this world until your Kingdom is Complete.***

*We will divide our time into two parts:*

1. **We’ll DEFINE this “Kingdom” of which we speak**
2. **We’ll Examine the 4 aspects of this request**

*So first:*

# Let's DEFINE this “Kingdom” (REPEAT) *that we are talking about when we say “Your* Kingdom *come”*

**We’ll begin with the obvious:**

 When we say “**Your** Kingdom” we are speaking to God – the King of Heaven and Earth and everything in them! He is the greatest King, the highest ruler, the Creator and Sustainer of All things – And we have the privilege to come to HIM in prayer and we are asking *God the King* to bring His Kingdom, *to let His Kingdom come*… But what does that mean? *Bring His Kingdom where?* ***and*** ***FROM Where does it come?***

 Well, just two breaths earlier, in the Lord’s prayer, we called God: “Our Father **in Heaven**.” And those words have a simple but profound impact on how we define this Kingdom. **If our Father is in Heaven, then His Kingdom is also heavenly.** We are speaking of the Kingdom of Heaven. *But if this Kingdom is heavenly, does that mean that it ISN’T earthly as well?* **No… Because, It’s both!** ***We are asking God to complete the task of making His heavenly kingdom spread on earth!***

 And we see *that* as we turn to Jesus’ own definition of the Kingdom of Heaven. We read of it in Matthew 13, in those 3 Parables: *of the Weeds, the Mustard Seed, and the Yeast*. ***There we see a number of things:***

* In the Parable of the Mustard Seed, we see the ***seed to tree*** element of God’s Kingdom – it will start small as a seed and eventually grow into a tree: ***its beginning does not limit the glory of its end***. (***kinda*** like acorn/oak tree)
* In the Parable of the Yeast, we see the pervasive unstoppable nature of God’s Kingdom – in time, the whole lump of dough was leavened by a little yeast, ***LIKEWISE***, in time, the whole world will be completely conquered by the Gospel of God’s kingdom!
* In the Parable of the Weeds, we learn that the Kingdom of Heaven ***starts*** here on earth, but it finds fruition/completion in Heaven & Eternity. So, as the parable explains, the seeds are the Sons of God’s Kingdom - Christians. They are planted by the Son of Man (Christ) and grow to maturity in the field (of earth). This “Christian” wheat (if you will) grows alongside the weeds (which are the sons of the devil, or Non-Christians). Then at the harvest, (which is the end of time) they are all gathered and separated: the Christian Wheat into the barn of Heaven, and the Non-Christian Weeds into the fiery furnace of Hell.

The “Christian” Wheat growing on the field **of earth** were called the Sons of the Kingdom **of Heaven**. Once someone is saved by faith in Christ, they are a son/daughter of God’s Kingdom – and so in one sense, the Kingdom of God is already **here** ***in the church***. ***However,*** *as anyone who has ever walked on a farm knows* – there is a big difference between grain in the field and harvested grain in the barn! The Grain is grown **to be** harvested and taken to the barn – likewise, Christians do not live in this world for **this** ***world’s* sake**! We live here as pilgrims in a foreign land – our ultimate destination and home will be the “barn” of the New Heavens/Earth, ***but it isn’t that time yet!***

There is a somewhat confusing, **but very helpful phrase** which is used to explain this conundrum. Theologians say, “We are at the junction of the ALREADY, but NOT YET.” The Already, but Not Yet. ***Think of it this way:***

*Consider that you have a large amount of debt.* Many of us have been there. It is a weight on your mind and a heavy burden. ***But then*** a random unknown uncle from overseas dies and leaves you some money. You are informed by the executor of the estate that Money is on its way. You know that it will be more than enough to pay off all your bills, buy you a new house/new car ***and*** pay to furnish your new house… but the money won’t be available for a couple of weeks.  *And you know that it is genuine, because they don’t ask for your account or any money like all those scams! IF that happened,* ***What would happen to the burden of your debt?*** Lifted immediately! “Oh **PTL**, it is all over…!” ***BUT Wait:*** has any of your debt been paid off yet?! Nope… But, the hope/promise/guarantee of having it paid off has removed the burden. ***You don’t have all the money YET, but you ALREADY feel better!***

We are already citizens of God’s Heavenly Kingdom through faith in Christ, but we don’t live in that Kingdom yet. We aren’t in the barn, we aren’t in Eternal Glory enjoying the fullness of the Kingdom. ***Our sins have been paid for by Christ, and are forgiven, BUT we are not free from sin… at least not yet!*** Everything about your faith/salvation/God’s Kingdom is captured by this phrase: Already, but not yet… **Here, God is commanding us to pray**: *God, Let your Kingdom come in all its Glory! Complete what you have started!* And in particular, as we see in the Heidelberg Catechism, there are 4 aspects which God has started, which we want Him to complete!

*And that leads us to our Second point, where we will:*Examine the 4 aspects of this request

# Let’s Examine the 4 aspects of this request: Your Kingdom Come… (REPEAT)

***God has started a work in/for Us personally, FOR the good of His Church corporately, For the destruction of His Enemies, and For the restoration/redemption of all creation! (REPEAT NUMERICALLY)***

***. 1) personal, 2) church/corporate, 3) destroy enemies of kingdom, 4) redemptive for all creation***

*So, this request “Your Kingdom Come” is FIRST OF ALL:*

* 1. ***Imminently PERSONAL:***

We are asking God to RULE US by His Word and Spirit IN SUCH A WAY, that we submit to God MORE AND MORE! **You see:** A Necessary element of EVERY Kingdom is that there are laws. And *so it is* with God’s Kingdom. He redeems us FROM sin and turns us to and equips us for NEW Obedience in Christ. *You do not obey the laws of New Zealand to become a resident/citizen – You obey BECAUSE you are a resident/citizen!* If you were an enemy of the State – then you disobey the rules and tear it down… But the Sons of the Kingdom keep the laws of the kingdom! ***And so, when we pray this request: we are asking God*** – **Bring Your** **Kingdom** to completion *in my heart* by conquering my ***remaining sin,*** and enabling me to obey Christ’s *commands.*

***This is very personal, but we pray the Lord’s Prayer in the Plural, don’t we?! We are saying “Rule US!”*** *So, while we are asking for God to rule our hearts individually and personally… We see secondly that this request is also:*

* 1. **Equally Corporate!**

We are asking God to Keep His Church Strong/Growing! We are asking God to do what He said would happen in the Parable of the Yeast. There He said that the Kingdom would grow in a pervasive unstoppable way just as yeast spreads through an entire lump of dough. *So, when we say, your kingdom come, we are saying GROW and Protect your church!* **Root out all sin/deception/hypocrisy and draw all believers closer to yourself in godliness and faith!**   *If you pray that – then you must also be involved in that work!* Holding one another accountable, praying with & for each other... You should be involved in each other’s lives so that you each feel free to share the sin struggles of your hearts with others in the congregation – that you might learn from one another and grow. ***And this also*** means that you should be active in evangelism as well – inviting friends, family and neighbors to church. You can’t really ask God to grow and bless His church, and then not take advantage of the opportunities that God gives you!! ***That would be hypocrisy!***

 ***THUS FAR****, we have seen that this request is personal and corporate, but thirdly we see that it is also:*

* 1. **DESTRUCTIVE!**

In order for God to keep the first two aspects of this request – ruling us personally, and protecting/growing the church corporately – **HE MUST Destroy the Devil’s Work!** He must be working to destroy every force which revolts/rebels against His Rule/Kingship! Not one conspiracy against God or His Word can remain unchallenged or unconquered.

 In warfare, wherever an army goes, it must have supply lines connecting it back to its home base or friendly ground. And when an army advances it doesn’t leave any enemies behind to disrupt their supply lines – they try to destroy or drive away all enemies… And so, for God’s kingdom to truly advance and come – He must drive off or destroy every enemy which stands in its way. God has already declared *that the gates of Hell will not prevail against His church!* **The Gospel will destroy the devil’s work, and every remnant of sin!**

 This is a great source of hope to you and me – for like a precious inheritance from a wealthy uncle, the Promise of God’s ultimate destruction of sin, Satan and death, **lifts the burden of the struggles of this life!** EVEN AS: We might ask for our inheritance to be expedited to speed up the availability of the money so we can pay our bills, ***so we ask God to bring His kingdom in all its glory* so that the debts/burdens of sin (***& its effects***) might be abolished!**

 *And that leads us to the final aspect of this request – It is personal, corporate, destructive, but ultimately*

1. **REDEMPTIVE!**

We are asking God to Rule us, Protect/Grow His Church, and Destroy His Enemies – AND TO KEEP ON doing these things until REDEMPTION is Complete… As the Catechism says: Until your Kingdom is **SO complete and Perfect** ***that in it***, you are ALL in ALL! ***And that is the unifying principle of all these different aspects:***

We ask God to RULE us and subdue us by His Word/Spirit so that Our Redemption from sin/Satan might be complete! We Want God’s Church to grow – Not because we want full pews and big offerings… *But because WE want the Redemption of Sinners to be complete!*  We Want God’s enemies destroyed, Not because we are vindictive hateful people, but Because we want God’s Redemptive Victory to be complete!

***And it is that hope of the Final Victory –*** *the hope that one day all the debts will be paid – that gives us strength and joy in the struggle of this life!* ***Even when the battle is hot, and your struggle with sin is intense,* YOU CAN PRAY *– Your Kingdom Come! Conquer me, Conquer your Church, Conquer your Enemies and Conquer Creation by your Grace!***

**And then you can REST in that Hope … the hope that at the proper time, Christ will do what He has promised.**

When anxieties/regrets or bitterness come to mind about work, or debts or obligations or lost opportunities – **Stop and remind yourself of what Christ has promised You!**

 Remember what you are praying when you say Y***our Kingdom come*** – **REMIND yourself**, “Christ has won the victory, and He will work this out!” THE Victory is already Certain, I just don’t see it yet!

**As you Look to God in Faith …** God will be glorified!

AND HIS KINGDOM ***WILL COME*** More and More ***in your own heart***,

 ***in this church,*** and ***ultimately to this world!***

**Amen.**