

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church



Weekly Sermon Series

Taking Root: Deep Breathing ...Kingdom Come Luke 17:20-21; James 4:1-10; Acts 4:23-30

The twenty-first verse of Luke 17 ends with “...For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.” How would you interpret that for yourself? Should we assume that if we had sufficient self-control over our thoughts and actions that we would pretty much be walking a straight and peaceful road? Or, would it be safer to assume that this kingdom to come will occur in the future, say, at our death? Of course that would depend on whether one was a believer or not. Or will the kingdom of God dwell within us it when the Holy Spirit comes into our lives and we, by God’s grace, believing in God’s holy word, will then try and lead a godly life here on earth and continuing into eternity? Don’t worry about tripping or screwing up now and then, we can and will be forgiven. My own thought on this is, yeah, the kingdom of God is within us but too many of us aren’t listening or obeying God’s Word. The results speak for themselves. We are contentious by nature or choice, it seems, for hours, if not days, on end.

Take another look at James 4:2-3. You see, we don’t always pray for guidance but rather plunge headlong in our impatience and selfishness for what we think is best for us. Our attitude seems to be: after everything else fails, it’s time for prayer. Why don’t we try it the other way around and drop our impatience in awaiting an answer or direction and let God work God’s way in us? What would we have to lose?

“ . . . Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Ah, here’s another poser. But it seems to me that this is indeed possible as God’s will is done whether we pray or not but we pray for God’s will to be done in our life simply because there isn’t any other way. Praying in this manner is asking God to protect us from the will of the evil one, the ways of the world, and our own fleshly desires. By keeping steadfast in God’s Word and holding on to our faith until God calls us home, we should, I feel, live somewhat on a heavenly plain. I haven’t heard or read a better idea.

Take a few minutes to think about the words, “Thy kingdom come.” What do you picture? Now tie these thoughts into “...on earth as it is in heaven.” How do these thoughts make you feel? Are you at peace? Full of hope? Or, are you somewhat bothered? If so, spend some time reading over James 4:1-10; meditate on what is being said. When you feel you have a grasp on those words, continue on to the end of the chapter. These words in the Bible are there for a reason so don’t just skip over them when you read. One day you may be sorry you did.

-- Week of August 2, 2009