

Not the Way it Should Be

March 9, 2014

Matthew 6:9-13

Lent – Preparing Our Hearts

Facing Death; Preparing for Resurrection

The Beautiful Kingdom

- God's Kingdom; God's Will
- God's Plan; God's Dream
- What God Wants – and Always Wanted
- The Pattern of Life Jesus taught and lived
- Love God Supremely; Love People Equally
- The Conditions for Human Flourishing
- The World "Put Right" again

Not the Way it Should Be

A Negative Definition – Anything that is not THAT

- Any act that rebels against God's good rule
- Anything that blocks God's good plan
- Anything that is not what God wants
- Anything not like Jesus lived and taught
- Anything that is not loving God First
- Anything that impedes human flourishing

Preparing Our Hearts

Facing ...

- Ways that we are on the wrong side
- Forces and tendencies pushing the wrong way
- Deeper than we know!

Lord's Prayer – Pattern for Heart Preparation

- Confessing Our Sin
- Forgiving Others
- Struggling with Temptation
- Protection from Enemy

Lent – Prepare Our Hearts

A Proposal for Lent

Pray the Lord's Prayer several times each day.

Pray slowly, using the prayer as a model, as a list of themes to be included in your praying.

Be aware of the Beautiful Kingdom ...

Asking God to bring His good plan to fullness.

Be aware of how much is not the way it should be ...

Facing it ... Praying about it.

Prepare Our Hearts by ...

- Confessing Our Sin
- Forgiving Others
- Struggling with Temptation
- Protection from Enemy

The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

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

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.