Amen, amen, I've never heard that song.
What motivation to live.
Anybody got anything on your heart tonight?
Any testimony, any word?
Amen.
Amen.
Amen.
Amen.
Love, Paul says,
For I reckon that the sufferings of this present world are not
worthy to be compared to the glory which shall be revealed.
They don't even belong in the same sentence, same zip code, same stratosphere.
Amen.
Matthew chapter 6.
Matthew chapter 6.
Good to see Todd and Jenny Lynn.
What is that young'un's name?
One more time.
My hearing aids, I've not worn them in about two months.
So I can, Lennon, Lennon, Lennon, as in John, Lennon, okay, gotcha.
To see these little ones, her and Caroline, I guess, are the same age.
The little girls grow up into moms.
And I'm going to be preaching.
You ain't take back the invite yet, have you?
Mount Joy.
I'm still going to be preaching at your church at the end of July, right?
Mount Joy up in Iyuka the last week of, he's serving his interim there.
So pray for them as they're undertaking of doing what the Lord's called him to do.
So good to have them here tonight.
Matthew chapter 6.
Again, read in verse 9.
We'll read verse 9 and 10.
Jesus says, After this matter, therefore pray ye.
Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
I want to send most of our attention tonight in that verse 10 where Jesus says,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Let's pray.
Dear Father, we approach you tonight thankful for the many, many blessings that you,
God, have just showered on our lives.
Lord, for our families, our homes.
But God, above all, the mercy and the grace and the love that you have shown us.
That you are a God bigger than we could possibly comprehend or imagine.
Greater than we could imagine.
But you're also our perfect Father.
Who loves and cares and nourishes and strengthens.
But you're a Father who longs for us to see just as I do as my father, my children.

Lord, to see things through your perspective.
Your wisdom.
Your good.
Your strength.
God, help us tonight as we study your word.
That you would use it to transform us, to change us.
Lord, to strengthen us for your glory and our good.
Lord, in Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.
Amen.
Quick reminder tonight before we really jump into
this prayer and begin to analyze what Jesus says here.
Why we have this and why we don't.
What this is and what this isn't.
This isn't some type of magic pill.
It's not some type of magic potion.
It's not something that we can just recite and
say and all of a sudden power comes with it.
What this is, is a model.
It's a template.
It's divine instructions from the Lord himself on how to pray.
Flip over to Luke chapter 11.
You don't have to, but this is actually, if you follow with me, Luke chapter number 11.
Luke records this, model prayer, disciples'
prayer, as Jesus' answer to a sincere request.
Luke chapter 11, verse 1 says,
It came to pass that as he was praying in a certain place.
Jesus is praying in a certain place.
His disciples witnessed Christ's prayer all the time.
That when he ceased, one of his disciples said it to him,
Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.
John taught those who followed him, but we want you to teach us.
I remember reading this for the first time and it really grabbed me.
These disciples had seen 4,000 fed, 5,000 fed.
They had seen storms be stilled.
They had seen waters be calmed.
They had seen the deaf be able to hear and the
blind be able to see and the lame be able to walk.
But to my knowledge, we have no record of them
requesting the power to do any of these things.
But we do see them requesting, Lord, teach us how to pray.
They had heard him pray.
They had seen him pray.
They had felt his power in prayer.
But the impression the Lord gave me has really, really been on me
as I've been thinking about these verses, this prayer for the last few days
is that the purpose of prayer is not to change God.

The purpose of prayer is to change us.
And one of the things that needs to continually be changed in me,
one of the things that needs to continually be improved in my life
is the priority of my desires.
Tonight, I want to preach on the subject of our first desire.
We got in the car today.
I mean, she doesn't always say something about the message in particular,
but she said something today that really struck me.
She said, referring to what we looked at this morning,
she said, Brian, it's when I get the first part right,
it changes the rest of my prayer and makes it right.
When I get the first part right, this morning was the first priority.
When Jesus says, when you begin to pray, we must recognize who we're praying to.
We're praying to an omniscient, omnipotent, holy, righteous, sovereign God,
ruler of heaven and earth, maker of heaven and earth,
all light, no darkness, pure.
This is whose presence we're coming into, but this God is also our Father.
And it's when we see that and when we recognize
that and we bow to that and we submit to that,
it then begins to transform the way that we pray.
It begins to transform what we ask for.
But it doesn't just stop in the prayer closet.
It makes its way to the way we work on Monday and the way
we sing on Sunday and the way we do things in our life.
But Jesus moves from this first priority here to this first desire.
He says, after this matter,
Therefore pray ye, our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
And here's the first request.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
This first desire is a prayer that is centered on the kingdom of God.
It's important.
It's a prayer that is centered on his kingdom.
Now folks, we could spend a whole, whole, whole
lot of time talking about the kingdom of God.
If you read the Gospels and you see all the
things that Jesus preached on, that he taught on,
the kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven, I believe was his favorite subject,
or that was the subject that he preached upon the most.
So we've got to answer the question, what is the kingdom of God?
The best answer that I've ever heard referring to the
kingdom of God is that it is now and it is not yet.
There's a kingdom that is coming and there's a kingdom that is at hand.
There's a glorious kingdom of God coming and you just sang about it.
It is a kingdom where there is no darkness, there is no sin, there is no death,
there is no disease, there is no nothing lacking,
that all of God's glorified saints get to
sit amongst the unveiled presence of our king

where time stops, it exactly exists no more, everything's right, nothing's wrong.
I have not seen nor ear heard what God hath prepared for them to love him.
There's a kingdom that is coming.
This world, scripture tells us, with melt will fervent eat.
This will be no more.
There is a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.
But there is also a kingdom that is at hand, the mighty kingdom of God.
John the Baptist preached it.
Jesus preached it.
But the fact is, we look at this prayer, a Christian's
prayer and his entire life is to be kingdom centered.
That's the focus.
That's where it comes from.
That's where it builds out from.
This is where Jesus says, seek ye first, what?
The kingdom of God.
And his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.
Folks, it's when our prayers are not kingdom centered.
And it's when our lives are not kingdom
centered is when everything gets out of whack.
I want you to think about it for just a minute.
There's a lot of problems that we deal with.
A lot of, all of us have our own issues.
But I think far and away that perhaps the most troubling
and persistent problem plaguing believers today
is a lack of kingdom centered thinking.
It's being focused on the temporal things, the things that
were wrought and decayed versus the things that are permanent.
We spend so much time trying to build castles on foundations of
sand instead of pitching a tent on the sure foundation of the Lord.
We spend so much time trying to hold on to this
life instead of giving it away to the king.
It's what Ethan talked about this morning, not
hungering and thirsting after righteousness.
That's what it means to be kingdom centered.
God, I know you, but I want to know more of you.
God, I'm here at this place at this time, but I want
my life to be built around your will, your desire.
Hey, I'm all excited.
Maybe, oh, I don't want to get in trouble with this.
I've never seen heaven.
Never seen it.
Never seen it.
And maybe I don't appreciate it as much as I should.
I appreciate it.
And I know one day I'm going to be there.
But folks, I don't spend a whole lot of time dwelling

and contemplating about getting to go to heaven.
I tell you what I long for and what I desire is for
heaven to come down in my body in this place right now.
That Christ says the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
The power of God is at hand.
I know where he's taking me.
I know where I'm going to be.
I know all of this is going to be wrapped up.
But I don't want to live in weakness.
I don't want to live in suffering.
I don't want to live in struggle.
I don't want to live in despair.
I want to live in the power of God.
And Nicky, I know you're with me on this.
Where Christ is ruling and reigning in my life today.
And I'm experiencing the strength of God.
And the peace of God.
So this first priority, this is the God that I come to.
This is the God that I pray to.
And the first that I desire that I have is about God's kingdom.
But it's also about something else.
This first desire is centered on the will of God.
These two verses, these words go back and forth.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
Think about the perfect will of God that is currently taking place in heaven.
That's a wow statement.
Right now that there is no rebellion, there is no
hurt, there is no pain, there is no dysfunction.
The perfect will of God being, taking place currently with the Lord in glory.
We can think about the perfect will of God that will take
place when his kingdom comes, his eternal kingdom comes.
And all sin is eradicated and the saints of all ages are with him.
And that's a wow thought.
But folks, this is more than that.
This is a person who prays and longs for the perfect will
of God to be accomplished in the kingdom that is at hand.
This is a prayer where our first desire is not our own interest,
but our desire, our first desire, are the interest of God.
This goes back to what Mitzi said today.
It's when I get the first part right, it changes
my prayer and makes the rest of it right.
Because what's happened, Robert, you realize
now you're in the presence of the king of glory.
You're in the presence of a sovereign God.
You're a small man in front of this great, omniscient, omnipotent king of glory.
And so now as you're in his presence, some of those things that we come
with, they seem to pale in comparison now because I'm in his presence.

And I begin to see his kingdom.
I begin to see his glory.
I begin to see how the harmony that there is with the Lord.
And I just don't long for that one day when I die.
But I want that present now here in my life.
So now my desire is, my first desire above all other desires is
that that kingdom, that peace, his will is at work in my life.
His interest become my interest.
And folks, I wrote this question down because
we got to not just ask it, we got to answer it.
Are his interests, his desires, his will, what I really desire?
Do we truly, can we pray?
Number one, can we pray verse number nine?
The only way you can pray verse number nine is if you're a child of God.
So that's the first thing.
You've got to be born again.
You've got to be saved.
You've got to know the Lord.
That's the only way you can call him your father.
So can we pray verse nine?
Let's check that box.
Yes, I can pray verse nine.
Can we pray ten?
Rhonda, can you kneel down and pray and go, God, Lord,
my interests above all things now are your interests.
I'm surrendering my will, Sister Joyce.
Listen, Father, I want your will and your desires above all
else to be accomplished now in the kingdom that is at hand.
Folks, it is so easy to become fixated on self.
It is so easy to become distracted.
It is so easy for our interest to consume us
and engulf us that we have to answer this.
Do we long for his desires and his will in our lives?
One of the quotes that I heard years and years ago that really stuck with me was Adrian Rogers said
that God's will for our lives is what we would choose for ourselves if we had enough sense to choose it.
That we don't have to be afraid of the will of God.
Remember who we're praying to.
And I know some believers that struggle with this a little bit.
You're scared to pray for something or that somehow
God may grant something that's contrary to his will.
Don't worry about that.
He ain't granting anything that's contrary to his will.
That's going to reduce his glory or benefit you that's contrary to his will.
What we've got to remember is who we're praying to.
I'm praying to the God of all creation.
I'm praying to a good and holy and perfect Father.
I'm praying to the God whose will is always perfect.

So I can pray for it.
I can long for it.
I can embrace it.
I can plead to God.
Lord, let that same harmony, peace, will that's been
accomplished in glory be accomplished in my life now.
He said, preacher, what is the will of God?
This is a true story.
I had a church one time.
And, you know, it was sparsely attended or what have you.
They published, we're going to start something.
Knowing God's will for your life.
It's a study we're going to have.
Buddy, you want to start seeing people get interested.
Somebody's finally going to tell me what it is I'm supposed to be doing here.
Now I can know exactly what God's will is for my life.
And can I tell you, sometimes we treat it like it's Bigfoot or the
Loch Ness Monster or something extremely mysterious and difficult.
When in fact, it's not that difficult at all.
It's not that difficult at all.
You say, preacher, what is the will of God?
Can I tell you, you got a whole book of it.
We got a whole book of it.
I want to share a few with you.
This is the will of God.
Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
What do I know that is true about God?
God is not willing.
He does not desire for anyone to be separated from Him of all of eternity.
His desire, His will, His longing is that men would turn and repent.
Thessalonians says, for this is the will of God.
Even your sanctification.
What does that mean?
That means Alton Hester has not arrived yet.
You've been saved, you've been sanctified, you've been set apart.
But God's will for you is that you continue to grow and glow for the glory of God.
Those are two things that are God's will.
Not willing that any should perish and that every
church, not growing numerically but growing spiritually,
growing more like the Lord.
What is the will of God?
Love your enemies and pray for them that despitefully use you.
What is the will of God?
Husbands, love your wives even as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it.
What is the will of God?
Forsaking not the assembling of yourselves together is the manner
of some as it is and so much more as you see the day approaching.

We've got to find out what the will of God is.
Open our Bibles.
It's all over.
It's all over.
For this is the will of God.
Ecclesiastes chapter 12.
Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter.
Fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man.
This prayer.
See, I love the way Mitzi said it.
By the way, she's way smarter than me and
those who will spend time with us know that.
It's when we see God for who He is.
And we recognize Him for who He is.
And because we recognize Him for who He is, we approach Him as who He is.
We don't come strolling up in there.
We ain't no peacocks.
I mean, we come down and we nestle up at the feet of our Father.
And we realize He's perfect.
And He's right.
And He's good.
And we pray, dear God, I'm setting my interests aside.
I'm setting my desires aside.
This is about your kingdom.
Your kingdom that's coming.
Your kingdom that is here.
And I want that to be accomplished now in my life.
This is my desire.
It's my first desire.
It's what I long for.
And church, especially some of you younger people, I want you to listen to this.
Because I think some of y'all struggle with
this more than maybe some of us older folks.
It's when we make His revealed will a priority.
It's when He begins to unveil and lead us toward the unrevealed will.
It's when we start doing those things that He has clearly shown.
That step by step, I didn't know I was going to spend
this much time on this, but I'm just going to keep going.
You know how God's will works?
There is never a road map that is laid out that
says you start here and you'll end up there.
And then you'll be here and then you'll be
there and you'll be here and you'll be there.
That is not how it works at all.
We walk by faith, not by sight.
Todd, I don't know if you're still praying about this or not, but I'm
going to give you the best advice you've heard in a long, long time.

You do the things that are clearly revealed in God's Word.
Today you win today.
I'm going to step in obedience today with your interest becoming my interest.
And what you find out is each day that you live that way and you walk that way,
you are getting closer and closer and closer to God's intended will for your life.
That's how it works.
Well, how can I do that?
We've got to go back to the first priority.
I'm praying to God.
And I can trust Him with direction.
I can trust Him with sustenance.
I can trust Him with power.
I can trust Him to lead me.
It's a prayer that is centered on the kingdom of God.
It is prayer that is centered on His perfect will.
But I want to share a third thing with you.
It is a prayer where there's a willingness to submit to His will.
Let's look at this passage, verse 9 and 10.
After this manner, therefore pray ye, our Father which art in heaven,
hallowed, sanctified, magnified, to be treated with honor as your name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Can I tell you something that I know for sure?
Every soul that is present in glory currently is submitting to the will of God.
Those who rebelled are no longer there.
So experiencing this power in prayer, experiencing this peace in prayer,
experiencing this will of God in my life requires me to submit to His will.
We don't clearly see that so much revealed in this passage of Scripture
as we do see it in the life of the Lord Jesus.
Y'all know exactly where does your mind go when you think about that.
It goes directly to the Garden of Eden.
I cannot explain the God part and the humanity part of the Lord Jesus Christ
other than by saying Scripture said He is the only begotten.
He is the only one of His kind.
He never quit being God.
He was always the eternal God 100%.
But He was also 100% human.
And that humanity part of Him in the garden realized the cup that was in front of Him,
the agony that was in front of Him, and He sweat as great.
He agonized.
Jesus never got tore up over nothing.
He didn't get sideways.
Nothing bothered Him.
Until He come to that cup and He agonized in
prayer, and y'all know exactly how I prayed,
Father, if it be possible, remove this from me.
He didn't want to face it.
And who could blame Him?

It's the sin of all of humanity draped upon Him.
Not just that, it was separation from the Father.
He endured the very wrath of God against sin.
It was a cross, it's impossible to overstate.
Yet, not my will, but thine will be done.
See, Jesus' power in prayer didn't rest in His eternal position.
It rested in His loyal submission.
Jesus said, I'll always do those things that please Him.
He was always in harmony with the Lord.
He was willing to submit to the Father's plan in His life.
I heard what C.S. Lewis wrote one time.
He said, for most of us,
the prayer in Gethsemane should be the only model that concerns us.
Moving mountains can wait.
I love that.
I want a prayer that can move mountains.
I want a prayer that can pluck up a tree and send it over yonder into the ocean.
You know what?
Those things can wait.
Where we need to start is the prayer of Gethsemane
where we address God and we're willing to say,
not my will, Father, but thine will be done.
Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Where we are willing to submit to the Father's will.
Listen, this may be strong, but it's true.
Please listen to me.
If you are not willing to obey when you stand up,
you might as well not kneel.
You have no right to ask God for anything
if you are unwilling to do what He has commanded us to do.
Can I tell a story to you all real fast?
Can I tell a story to y'all real fast?
I've gotten so many things wrong,
but this has grabbed me in a way.
It might have been nine months ago,
a year ago, nine months ago,
that I got a phone call that New Bethel was out of a pasture
and I was asked to pray that God would send one of them there
and give them some names if I knew of anybody.
Mitchie was in the call with me when I got that call.
And can I tell you what happened to Brian?
Immediately, because I'm human,
I would love to go back to New Bethel.
Y'all, this is true.
I'm not making none of it up.
I would love to go back to New Bethel.

Not that I was unhappy where I was,
but because next to my own family,
y'all are some of my favorite people.
I don't know, some of y'all might not rank my brothers.
Y'all are some of my favorite people in the world.
And I love it here.
I said, I'm going to pray about it.
Mitchie, you pray about it.
And we prayed about it.
And we prayed about it.
I even worked it all out in my mind.
That took about a month, I guess.
I went on vacation with Mitchie
and talked and talked.
She never really seemed to give me a whole lot with it, though.
We got back from vacation.
I went to church one Sunday morning with every intention of resigning
my present church.
And what happened, I never heard y'all sing that song.
A couple got up and sang a song that I'd never heard sing before.
And as soon as the first verse started playing,
I'll tell you, tears started coming down my eyes.
And God made it absolutely clear, you ain't going anywhere.
You're exactly where you need to be.
But I walked.
And before I got up and started preaching,
I told that church, I said, I'll tell you what.
Most of them didn't even know what was going on.
The deacons did.
I'm exactly where God wants me to be.
And I'm staying put right here.
And that was that.
That was that.
Can I tell y'all I got that right?
Because God's will was no.
My desire was yes.
God's will was no.
But I've learned something.
If I'm not willing to do what God's told me,
I'll need to find y'all another preacher.
I got no business standing behind a pulpit.
And about six months later,
God spoke again.
This is an honest engine.
God spoke again.
Me and Missy's in two different cars.
We're driving to church.

And I said, baby,
I take my wife, Lord have mercy.
I'm telling y'all, I got a jewel.
Y'all pray for her because she's married to a nut.
We're in two different cars.
And I tell her, baby,
I tell you, I got new Bethel all over me.
It's going to pray for me.
I got up that morning and I preached.
I shut my Bible and I told the church.
I said, I'm done.
It's time for me to go elsewhere.
I said, preacher, what happened?
God's will never changed.
God's will never changed.
God's, my,
God's timing
is what I had to get in tune with.
And so this time,
yes, Lord.
Yes, Lord.
And that's why I'm here.
What I'm trying to convey
is this ain't just letters on a page.
What I'm trying to say is if we'll approach God
as he really is
and rely on him like he's our father
and go pray, Lord, help me help my stupid self
because I want to get this right,
but I want to do what you want me to do.
and I promise that I will do what you want me to do
if you'll show me what you want me to do
because I want your desires above my desires,
God will lead you in that path.
But we must make his will
greater
than our own.
Out to the field come.
Our father
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Church, can I tell you when we are in the will of God
and his kingdom
is working in our lives the way it is supposed to,
there is nothing,
there is nothing,

there is nothing
that is impossible.
Nothing
that is impossible.
Let's pray.
Dear Father, I thank you.
I thank you that you hear me when I pray.
But dear God, you know my prayer now.
You know it the last few days.
I need your voice
to completely
drown out my own.
I need your words to completely
drown out my own.
I need your desires to completely
overwhelm my own.
I need your kingdom
to completely dominate
my kingdom because that is the best kingdom.
That is the best will.
That is the best route to go.
That is where the power and the peace and salvation
and glory is found.
Dear God, not so that it just transforms our prayer lives
but that it transforms our very lives.
The steps that we take.
The moves that we make.
Lord, it's all centered
in your perfect will of your great kingdom.
In Jesus' name I pray.
Amen.
Let's stand please.
Amen.