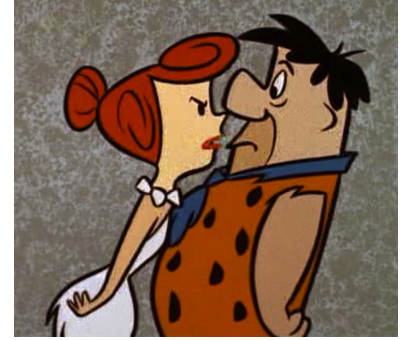


The   
**HOLY FROG**  
 Honour Others, Lower Yourself & Fully Rely On God Blog



## What ON EARTH are you doing?!

These words often come with a telling off and some upset because something that has been done, hasn't been done how it was expected to have been done!

“Do ‘what’ you’re told, ‘when’ you’re told, ‘how’ you’re told” might not sound ideal guidance for marriage but, on the whole, nearly 33 years later, I have to say it has proved to be excellent advice. When I take time to understand my wife’s perspective, realise the intention of her requests and, humbly put aside what I want to do, life is great. The only down side, however, is that sometimes I find it hard to be told ‘what’, ‘when’ and ‘how’ to do things! Am I the only one who struggles with this? After all, it’s natural to want to do things our own way isn’t it? **Why would anyone willingly give up their way for others? What kind of life is that!?**

**It was Jesus’ life!** He quite literally ‘lay down his life’ for others and in the next part of ‘The Lord’s Prayer’ He encourages us to do exactly the same! Stop and think about this a moment. Jesus is saying to his disciples, **when you pray, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven”** you **put aside your OWN intentions and will, and let God’s ways take priority over yours.** Am I the only one who struggles with this? Put ourselves under God’s direction rather than follow our own instinct? Be willing to do ‘what’ He wants, ‘when’ he wants and ‘how’ he wants? **What kind of life is that?**



**It’s ‘Kingdom life’!** In the Bible Jesus taught that ‘the kingdom of God is at hand.’ He was talking about the reality of **Heaven being seen on Earth.** The problem then, as now, was that no-one could actually, physically see it. Which, by the way, doesn’t automatically mean something doesn’t exist. We don’t SEE the wind or electricity but we do EXPERIENCE the effects of both - the coldness on our faces or the light of a lamp. In the same way, we may experience the effects of the Kingdom of God and know its reality, either **in our own lives or in those of others around us.** Jesus was full of grace and truth and lived among us being a tangible, visible example of God’s kingdom here on earth.

**When Jesus prayed he put his own will aside and intentionally committed to following God’s ways.** He asked that others would be able to know more of God ‘on earth’ through his life, his death and ultimately his resurrection. Agape love in action. This, says Jesus, is how we should pray too - **“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”.** **What kind of life is that?**

**Our life!** We are invited to be part of God’s kingdom. Not a physical kingdom but a spiritual one although there are similarities: a kingdom needs a king, a figurehead to follow- **Jesus is king**; a kingdom needs people - **those who accept Jesus as king are his people**;

a kingdom needs a place to be- **He reigns in the hearts and lives of those who submit to his authority.** When Jesus prays, he asks God that more of His kingdom would be seen 'on earth'- in the lives of those who choose to follow, who willingly obey and are loyal to God; that these people would give more of their lives to God and be willing to think '**less of themselves and more of others**' **What kind of a life is that!?**

**William Colgate's life!** At sixteen years old, he left home to find employment in New York City. He planned to gain his fortune by making soap. At the very start of his enterprise, rather than keeping all of the earnings of Colgate's soap products for himself, he decided, as a Christian, it was more important to give up one tenth for the church to use in charitable causes. Soon he gave two-tenths, then three-tenths, and finally five-tenths (50%) of all his income to the work of God in the world. In later life he explained that he did this in recognition of the fact that God was the giver of all that he possessed, not only of opportunity, but even of the elements used in the manufacture of his products.



This part of The Lord's Prayer "**Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven**" asks God to reign over everything in our lives. We recognise that He is in control. Our desire should be for Him to reign over our world as He reigns in heaven. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed... "**Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.**" (Luke 22) By giving up our wants in order for God's purpose to be seen we invite more of God's kingdom on earth.

This is how Jesus prayed, being selfless and humble, ready to serve the purpose of God. This is the foundation of our Christian faith and our ethos in St Peter's school to "treat others as you would be treated" (Mt7:12) Prayer is less about changing others and more about changing us. As we pray "**Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven**" we submit ourselves to God Our Father asking Him...

**"WHAT ON EARTH can I be doing in order to bring your kingdom to this world?"**



### Chaplain's Challenge

1. Who is your hero? Someone you look up to or would want to be like?
2. How good are you at putting others first? How do you know this?
3. How might praying 'Your will be done' change a difficult situation in your life?
4. Read Matthew 13 and illustrate the parables Jesus used to explain the 'Kingdom of God'
5. What can we learn from Jesus' prayer in The Garden of Gethsemane?
6. Write about a time you put God first. What happened? Would you do it again?

### Reflection

*Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But **seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.** (Matt 6:31-33)*

### Prayer

**OUR FATHER** in Heaven, thank you for Jesus' example of following your way in agape love, living in humility and service towards others. In the week ahead I pray that I might see more of YOU in our world not only through the lives of others but even through me! When faced by isolation, rejection, anger, hostility or suffering, help me to follow your way too, so that your will is done here on earth, in my home, in our school and in our community, as it is done in Heaven. Amen

