

The Park Church
Adult Study Group
“Praying the Lord’s Prayer”
Rev. Wayne E. Gustafson, D.Min.

Line 3– “The Creative Fire”
February 24, 2008

Questions and Comments from last class

Creating the reign of Unity – Asking to be empowered

Teytey malkuthakh

Thy kingdom come

Translation issues:

In some languages, nouns have gender, unlike English (Although, we ascribe gender to some nouns, like calling a boat “she”.) What impact does the feminine gender have on our understanding of “kingdom”.

teyey – come – “but includes the images of mutual desire, definition of a goal, and, in the old sense, a ‘nuptial chamber’ – a place where mutual desire is fulfilled and birthing begins”. Or “Come, really come!”

In other words, the whole process of coming into being

malkuthakh – “refers to a quality of rulership and ruling principles that guide our lives toward unity and creativity.”

(This word is used more than a hundred times in the Gospels)

Root word: *malkuta* – generally translated “kingdom”, but has a feminine gender in Aramaic, Hebrew, and Greek (*basileia*). Queens existed in countries for many thousands of years before there were kings.

-M- a fully formed

-L- extension of power

-K- that is centralized and determined

So –MLK- is “the sign of the creative word, the empowering vision, the counsel that rules by its ability to express the most obvious next step for a group.

On a personal level, this root expresses that which says “I can” to life.”

We are asking to be empowered with the creative vision of God so that we can participate in the co-creation of the kingdom. This is not asking God to do it for us, rather that God will empower us to do what we need to do.

When the Kingdom is in the process of coming, it feels like dancing.

In the Kingdom, the needs of the individual and the needs of the community are integrated.

The kingdom comes from within you, perhaps from the sacred place where you “hallow the name”.

The kingdom is the visible expression of the unity of all things that comes through you. Because we are all connected in the unity, justice has a new foundation. We are not just helping others, we are cooperating with and relating to other manifestations of the unity. We are helping our “whole selves”. This is not selfish. It is like eating a balanced diet that provides the nourishment for all the body’s diverse parts.

Healthy individuals make up healthy relationships and healthy communities.

malkuta lives at the subconscious level of our being, where we find our values and those beliefs that most motivate our lives.

Mystical Prayer

1. Go to the inner place that you find with your breathing. With the help if music or art or the words *teyey malkuthakh*, notice the creativity in you. What are you becoming? What is preparing to “come out of you”? During this time, you could look for a creative solution to a problem you are facing or look for guidance on the next step of your life.
2. While walking, aware of your breathing, try “moving from the heart”, going where your heart takes you. Your inner temple can lead your steps.
3. You can always return to the heart-shrine when you need to be restored by the creative process of the “I can” of God connected with your own “I can”.

Reading List

Prayers of the Cosmos: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus, Translation and Commentary by Neil Douglas-Klotz, Harper San Francisco, 1990.

The Hidden Gospel: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus, Neil Douglas-Klotz, Quest Books, Wheaton, IL, 1999.

3. The Creative Fire

Create your reign of unity now-
through our fiery hearts
and willing hands.

Let your counsel rule our lives,
clearing our intention
for co-creation.

Unite our "I can" to yours, so that
we walk as kings and queens
with every creature.

Desire with and through us
the rule of universal fruitfulness
onto the earth.

Your rule springs into existence
as our arms reach out to
embrace all creation.

Come into the bedroom of our hearts,
prepare us for the marriage of
power and beauty.

From this divine union, let us birth
new images for a new world
of peace.

Create your reign of unity now!