

A FRESH LOOK AT THE LORD'S PRAYER Matt. 6:9-15

INTRODUCTION

- I believe that the Lord's Prayer was given as a pattern for praying rather than a prayer to be recited. This is *how* to pray, not *what* to pray!
- It is deeper and more profound than mere words to be recited in a church service, though that can be powerful.
- It actually is a pattern for life as kingdom men and women on this earth. It provides direction for discipleship.
- Because Jesus' disciples saw Jesus prioritizing prayer, He was always praying, and they asked Him to teach them about prayer.
- We can gain some profound insight into living our lives by understanding this model of prayer.
- There is a correlation between our life purpose and mission and how we should pray. Jesus teaches and models this reality.

MESSAGE THEME: *Prayer provides direction and strength to your life purpose as Christ's disciple.*

KNOWING AND WORSHIPING GOD vs. 9

Matthew 6:9 (ESV) Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

Recognizing God as Your Father vs. 9a

- It begins with recognizing our relationship with God and His relationship with us.
- We have a paternal relationship with the God of the universe!
- The infinite, glorious, magnificent, transcendent God of the universe is your Father!!
 - The NT word translated "Father" is broad in meaning from an ancestor or head of family, a founder of a family, race, nation, etc., to a close and intimate relationship of affection and endearment.

Reverence God vs. 9b

1. Reverence and Worship

Hallowed be Your Name!

- The NT word *hagiozo*, translated as "hallowed," means *to regard, render, or acknowledge as sacred and set apart*, like none other!
- It is saying, *We hold your Name in reverence and regard you as holy!*
- While God is our intimate Father, we are also to worship Him in reverence.

ILLUST.: God told Moses no one can look on His face and live & *Isaiah in Isaiah 6.*

2. Know and Experience Him

- God's name refers to *Himself as revealed and manifested.*

- Throughout the Scriptures, God disclosed Himself and revealed His attributes to mankind in His names, which defined and characterized Him and established how He relates to mankind and how mankind is to relate to Him.
- Jehovah Jireh was declared to Abraham when God provided a ram to offer on the altar.

KINGDOM BUSINESS—GOD'S WILL DONE vs. 10

Matthew 6:10 (ESV) Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Jesus was on a Kingdom Mission

1. In the Beginning

- God created Adam and Eve so that humans would image God on this earth.
- God also extended and shared His rule with them for His order on the earth.
- As His delegated authorities, they were to ensure that the world on this earth would be all God wanted it to be.
- Humans are to be God's administration, His governmental cabinet on earth.
- That's why God told Adam and Eve to *multiply, fill the earth, subdue it, and exercise dominion* in His image.
- The earth and its activities were to be a reflection of heaven's order.
- We must understand this if we are to understand the theme of Scripture, our current and future lives, and the world now and into eternity's future.
- Understanding Genesis helps us understand Revelation, everything in between, and all that will follow Revelation.
- However, as we know, Adam and Eve failed.

2. Satan's Kingdom Reigns on Earth

- In Eden's Garden, mankind succumbed to Satan's temptation, submitted to or agreed with Satan to disregard God and rebel.
- Subsequently, Satan gained authority and power over this world on earth.
- Satan's kingdom values begin to fill this earth, as vividly seen in Noah's time according to Genesis 6:5.

Genesis 6:5 (ESV) The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

- After the flood, when the earth had been purged and cleansed of wickedness, we see "Creation 2.0" given to Noah to multiply and fill the earth.
- This time, God established a governing accounting of human behavior on earth: *"if a man sheds innocent blood, his blood is to be shed, for humanity was created in the image of God."*
- But again, wickedness from the heart of man and the influence of Satan filled the earth at the Tower of Babel.
- Jesus called Satan the ruler of this world.

John 14:30 (ESV) I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me,

- The Apostle Paul called Satan the “god of this world” and the “prince of the power of the air” (2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2).
- The Apostle John states that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

1 John 5:19 (ESV) We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

- During the wilderness temptation, Satan offers Jesus the kingdoms of the world if He would worship him. For they had been given to Satan.
- Jesus corrected Satan on his lies and deceptions throughout the temptations, but He did not correct Satan regarding the nations belonging to Satan (Luke 4:5- 6).
- Satan’s kingdom values have been filling this earth since the historic date in the Garden.
 - The earth has been filled with *wickedness, deception, hatred, pride, murders, ethnic cleansings, strife and divisions, wars, jealousies, envies, quarrellings, anger, vengeance, retributions, injustices, abuses, exploitations, trafficking, rapes, violations, indignities, sicknesses, diseases, abandonment, rejections, suicides, selfishness, selfish ambitions, strife and contention, betrayals, abortions, the darkness of Satanic worship, gangs, drugs, addictions, poverty, plagues, slavery, pain, barrenness* and we could on and on.
- This is a stark contrast to the first moments after God’s creation.
- God’s kingdom is absent of all of that and instead is one of *light, life, righteousness, wholeness, health, love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, strength, humility, selflessness, servanthood, benevolence, beauty, no tears, no sorrow, no heartache, no loss, intimacy, celebration, purpose, dignity, confidence, creativity,*

3. Jesus Demonstrated God’s Kingdom.

- Jesus’ ministry on earth was all about the kingdom of God invading earth.
- Jesus’ ministry was all about coming to seek and to save what was lost (Luke 19:10).
 - You have learned that the NT word translated as “save” is the word “**sozo.**” It means to *deliver, restore, heal, save,* and more.
 - It is used in the NT to speak of *physical healing, restoration of the soul* (mind, emotions, and will), *restoration or salvation of our spirit in salvation.*
- The NT word translated as “lost” is the word “**apollumi,**” meaning ruin, destroy, lost, put to death.
- That is what Satan is all about—it began in Eden’s garden.
- And Jesus came to recover, restore, deliver, and heal!!

4. **Jesus did the Father's Business.**

- Jesus repeatedly declares that He was about the Father's business; He was doing the works of the Father.

John 4:34 (NIV) "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

- That "work of the Father" is summarized in Luke 19:10: He came to save what was *lost* (brought to ruin, destroyed, brought to death)!
- Jesus launches His ministry by announcing His mission on earth in Luke 4:18-19.

Luke 4:18–19 (ESV) "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

- His announcement was to recover or save Satan's ruinous damage!!
- Jesus came to do the work of the Father, which was to destroy Satan's works!

5. **Jesus Destroyed Satan's Works**

- Jesus came to recover what Satan seized and plunder His kingdom.
- God sent in the best to invade Satan's kingdom, drop Him behind enemy lines, and rescue what he kidnapped!!

1 John 3:8 (NIV) He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

Jesus Demonstrated God's Kingdom on Earth

- Jesus' ministry included making it known that God's kingdom presence was on earth!!
- Jesus' works were in the context of *kingdom conflict!!*
- Jesus was at war!!
 - God's kingdom, in Jesus Christ, invaded Satan's territory, the strong man was bound, so the plunder could be taken!! (Matt. 12:29; Mark 3:27; Luke 11:21-22)
- **When He ministered in supernatural power, destroying the works of Satan, *it was a mark that God's kingdom was present!!***

Luke 9:1-2; 10:1,9 (ESV) And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. . . . After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. . . . Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

- Every time the Father's work destroyed Satan's work, it left a mark that the kingdom of God was present, like that of Zorro. When he left the slashing of the initial "Z," it let everyone know that Zorro had been there!
 - Every time a healing took place, a slashing of a Kingdom "Z" took place; instead of it being a "Z," it was a "K of G"!!
 - Every time someone received the message of the kingdom, repented and believed it left a slashing *kingdom* "Z."
 - When a person is set free from the prisons of *fear, unforgiveness, sorrow, injustices, indignities, self-hatred, addictions, violence, immoralities, rebellion, witchcraft, demonic control, and diseases by the power of God*, a slashing Kingdom Z is left!!!
 - **I believe that when Jesus prayed to the Father, He would pray *Thy Kingdom Come—where and how do you want to carry out your kingdom's presence today in Me and through My life!!***
 - This should be our same prayer: Thy Kingdom Come. How and where do you want to demonstrate your kingdom in and through my life?!

- **WE ARE ON THE SAME MISSION AS JESUS!**

John 17:18 (NIV) As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. . . . "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,

John 20:21 (NIV) Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

- THIS IS WHY WE ARE LEFT ON EARTH--THIS IS THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH!! ***We are to demonstrate God's kingdom and will in this world!! We are to invade Satan's kingdom!! WE MUST CONTEND!!***
- The spread of Christianity and Christian influence on government was primarily responsible for outlawing infanticide, child abandonment, and abortion in the Roman Empire (in AD 374).
- Outlawing the brutal battles-to-the-death in which thousands of gladiators had died (in 404).
- Outlawing the cruel punishment of branding the faces of criminals (in AD 315) and prison reforms such as the segregating of male and female prisoners (AD 361).
- Stopping the practice of human sacrifice and outlawing pedophilia.
- Prohibiting the burning alive of widows in India in 1829.
- In England, William Wilberforce, a devout Christian and member of Parliament, led the effort to abolish the slave trade and then slavery itself throughout the British Empire by 1840.
- Two-thirds of the American abolitionists in the mid-1800s were Christian clergymen, including Charles Finney.

Note!! There is a day coming when God's kingdom will ultimately and completely come, but in another sense, it presently is on earth through Jesus and those who are in union

with Him and, therefore, commissioned to do his kingdom work and announce his kingdom presence.

- OUR BATTLE - TITLE IX DEBACLE AND UNEQUIVOCAL TRUTH EVENT.

DAILY PROVISION vs. 11

Matthew 6:11 (ESV). . . give us this day our daily bread.

- Part of our relationship with the Father is making requests for our daily needs. The Father delights in this, and we should embark on it.
- This is not in conflict with Jesus' commands that we do not worry about the needs of everyday life such as food, drink, clothes, and shelter (Matt. 6:25-34).
 - Provision also includes relationships, community, and equipping.
- The command in these verses is *not to worry*; the command is not to *not pray*.
- You can pray without worrying—in fact, it is the prayer of faith that God responds to—and we are to cast our anxieties on God.
- What military person goes to war or on a mission and is not supplied and provided for in their service?
- PROMISE—while we are on the mission of the kingdom doing Jesus Ministry—the necessary provisions will be provided!! Pray for them. Thank God for them.

KINGDOM FITNESS vs. 12-13

Forgiveness vs. 12

Matthew 6:12 (ESV) and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

- Forgiveness is fundamental to God's kingdom.
- We enter into salvation by forgiveness.
- We continue in our Christian life and grow in our intimacy with Christ by seeking and receiving forgiveness when we sin.
- Jesus taught that we are to forgive those who violate us 7x70 times, and not only that, we are to pray for those who persecute or hurt us and bless those who spitefully use us.
- Forgiveness is in play virtually 100% of the time in our restoration or freedom prayer, both granting and receiving forgiveness.
- Repentance, in conjunction with forgiveness and walking in the truth by God's authority, is fundamental to God's presence and power being more fully released in and through our lives!!
- *It is so important that Jesus provided added emphasis in vs. 14-15.*

Holiness vs. 13

Matthew 6:13 (ESV) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

- We don't have time to demonstrate grammatically what is being said in the phrase "Lead us not into temptation, . . ." but let me summarize it for you.
- The N.T. term translated as "temptation" rarely if ever, communicates the sense of "enticement to sin" but rather "testing."
- It does not say, "Don't bring us to a place of temptation," or "Do not allow us to be tempted," for God did that with Jesus through the Holy Spirit, leading Him into the wilderness to be tempted.
- Yet, God does not tempt with evil (James 1:13), though He allows testing.
- An understanding of what is being said would be, "Don't let us succumb to testing, temptation," or "Don't abandon us to temptation." Life is filled with testing and sin.
- A positive supplication is then given, "Deliver us from evil (or the evil one).
- This would be more in line with what Jesus prayed for His followers in John 17 and admonished/exhorted His disciples toward in Mark 14:38.

Mark 14:38 (ESV): Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- God has given us all we need to withstand and prevail in temptation.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV) No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

- God has given us everything we need for life and godliness.
- We have the power of the cross that has broken the power of sin.
- We have Christ's authority to exercise over the demonic who would tempt our flesh to succumb to sin.
- Unforgiveness and sin are absolute "intimacy" and "power" disablers that compromise our ability to operate in God's power needed to fulfill the mission God has given us, His people, His ekklesia!

FINAL DOXOLOGY

Matthew 6:13 (NKJV) . . . For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

- Some ancient manuscripts include the final doxology, while others don't. Therefore, some translators included it in the translation while others excluded it.
- Either way, it is true!

Matthew 6:9–13 (NKJV) Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 and do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.