

Epiphany on the Mount

Sermon Series for the Season of Epiphany



SERMON INFO

TITLE

The Lord's Prayer

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Isaiah 58:3-9

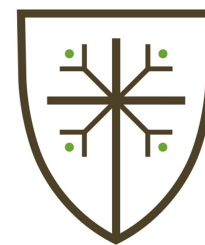
1 Corinthians 2:1-8

Matthew 6:1-15

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In his sermon, Tim referenced a quote from one of his mentors, "It's not wrong to not be extraordinary." In what ways does our culture today tell us just the opposite?
2. Jesus begins his prayer with "Our Father." Not, "My Father," but ours. Even though we know this, in what other roles do we often place God when we pray (instead of Father)?

SERMON NOTES



February 5, 2023

SERMON SUMMARY

This week, Tim continued our series on the sermon on the mount looking at the Lord's Prayer which, despite its brevity, possesses immense power in forming our hearts and lives as Christians. Two points in this week's sermon to answer the disciples' question, "How do we pray?" - first, the errors of the heart; and second, the petitions of the prayer.

Errors

Verses 1-8 show two errors in the intentions of the heart in prayer. Those Jesus critiques in these verses do pray and they do give to the poor, but their attitude was the issue. They gave and they prayed before others in order that they might be noticed by them. It was as if they were the actors on stage with the sole purpose of impressing their audience, of living up to expectations. Jesus calls us not to "theaterize" ourselves just so others will applaud. He says to do these things - giving to the poor and praying - with an internal unconsciousness. There is a connection between people and God and how we relate them. If we theaterize ourselves for others, we will do so for God. To be a Christian is, first and foremost, to relate to God not as a critic to impress or an audience to wow, but as a Father whose love is an outpouring of grace.

Petitions

There are six petitions in the Lord's Prayer, and they are focused not around what to pray, but how to pray. The first three petitions - "hallowed be thy name," "Thy kingdom come," and "Thy will be done," - all adoring and praising God. Adoration is the most important thing we do in prayer. God wants our praise not because he needs it, but because he knows that we need it. Our greatest need is to feel the primal weightiness of God. Adoration and praise are like the roots of a tree that make our hearts sturdy, that give life to the rest of the limbs and branches above ground.

They are the grounding for the next three petitions in the Lord's Prayer: daily bread, forgiveness, and resisting temptation. If we adore him, we will begin to trust him for our daily bread; we will confess our sins that he might forgive them; we will be able to resist temptation because our roots are plunged into the life of God.

Jesus prayed this prayer in the garden and on the cross. He instructs us to pray in the way that he too has lived and prayed before us. Because he knows that our hearts will have and hold that which our lips say.