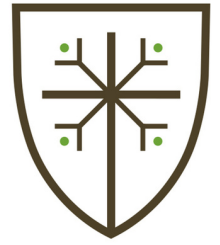


SERMON NOTES



The Lord's Prayer *Fall Sermon Series*

October 15, 2023

SERMON INFO

TITLE

Shalom In Dependence

PREACHER

Rev. Craig Chapman

TEXTS

Exodus 16:13-31

Philippians 4:4-9

Matthew 6:9-13, 25-29

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The Israelites had countless stories of God's provision in the Old Testament that we see them returning to again and again as reminders. What stories of provision do you have in your own life to which you return as testimonies to God's goodness?
2. With what provision do you find it hardest to trust God? How does praying the Lord's prayer in order (i.e. beginning with Our Father, beginning with praise) help when we arrive at the fourth petition?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Craig lead us in considering the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer – "Give us this day our daily bread." Craig looked at four ways in which praying this petition transforms us into kingdom people.

Dependent People

God seeks to dispel the myth of self-sufficiency. A prayer for daily bread is a prayer for all we need to sustain daily life. Like the manna given to Israel in the wilderness, this is not provision for a year, or even a month or two days, but daily, one day at a time. This doesn't mean God is calling us to always live paycheck-to-paycheck or never plan, but it does mean He is calling us to avoid presuming that we know what is best and can plan for any occasion. God gives grace today for physical and spiritual needs and trials today. In this petition, we pray not only for our physical bread but our spiritual bread, the bread of heaven, Christ himself.

Confident People

The fourth petition doesn't begin with "give us," it begins with "Our Father." We are confident to ask of our Father because we are confident that he will always give us what he knows is good. Parents delight to give their children what they need. And, like our earthly parents, when God says "no" it is for our good. Our Father discerns the heart desires of his children and responds with what is good for us. As Tim Keller has said, "God gives you what you would've asked for if you know everything he knows."

Relational People

As is evident by the very fact that we call him "Father," God is relational. And he calls us to be relational as well. Our faith is based on relationship, not on the anxiety of always needing to prove ourselves. And the more we grow in right relationship, the more we will have that relationship of faith instead of anxiety. In our Gospel passage, Jesus tells us to consider both the birds and the flowers. The birds are actively searching for the provisions that lie in wait. The flowers simply receive. We are called to neither sloth or theft. We are called to trust that what God says, he will do. When he says he will provide, he will provide.

Adventurous People

Finally, this fourth petition calls us to be adventurous people. In Malachi 3:10 which Craig read for us, God challenges his people to test his provision. If you think it is too much to ask, consider who it is that you ask. If you fear that an endeavor will fail, consider, as Craig said, "our job is not to be successful, but to be faithful with what God has given us."