

WOMEN IN THE WORD FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Scripture Reference Notes – March 24, 2026

Week 8: A Model for Prayer

Matthew 6: 5-15 - Jesus is teaching about issues of the heart.

Have you ever recognized God's blessing or provision that you received that you had not prayed for, but you know it was Him?

If God already knows, then why do we Pray?

We pray for the same reasons children speak to their parents: to share concerns, to have fellowship, to obtain help, and to express gratitude, among other reasons.

And what exactly do we mean when we say "Prayer Works" or "Prayer Changes Things" or "The Power of prayer"?

Jesus then gives us an example of prayer in Matthew 6:9-13

Referred to as "The Lord's Prayer" This is not a prayer that He prayed, but a prayer that He taught. I think that the actual Lord's Prayer is found in the garden of Gethsemane. By Himself.

"Father if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will but yours be done." Matt. 26:39 & Mark 14:36

It's the ultimate example of humility and faith in the sovereignty and plan of God!!

We can also read portions of John 17. Called the "High Priestly Prayer" This also took place just before He was betrayed by Judas.

What is He praying here?

God to be glorified by His death.

For the disciples to be sanctified by the truth of the Word.

For unity between God, Jesus and humanity.

Matthew 6:9-13

9 Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

Recognizing God's personal relationship with me and His perfection and Holiness

10 Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.

There may be a hint at the Trinity in these first three petitions that deal with God: The Father is to be honored. The Son is to be glorified when He comes to establish His kingdom on the earth. And the Spirit is the executor of God's will in the world now.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

Recognizing our dependance and God's provision - Just like the Israelites ate manna.

12 And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.

What we receive from God we are called to extend to others. Similar to John 17:20-26

The second clause in this sentence does not mean that we must earn God's forgiveness by forgiving other people. We know that this is not how we receive salvation. The person who does not forgive another person's offenses does not truly appreciate how much he himself needs forgiveness.

Why ask for forgiveness? As believers aren't all our sins forgiven, including future? Yes, but it's about relationship with God. Communicating with Him that we recognize our failure and sin and of course we are forgiven. Judicially we were forgiven at the moment of salvation, but relationally we still admit our sin and thank Him for that forgiveness.

13 And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.

Recognizing our dependance on God to protect us from evil and from sin.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

We can trust Him in all of these things because He owns His kingdom

The second part of the prayer, (vs 11-13) deals with the three essential needs of man, and the three spheres of time within which man moves. First, it asks for bread, thereby asking for that which is necessary for the maintenance of life, and thereby bringing the needs of the present to the throne of God. Second, it asks for forgiveness, thereby bringing the past into the presence of God, (the cross) and of God's forgiving grace. Third, it asks for help in temptation, thereby committing all the future into the hands of God. In these three brief petitions, we are taught to lay the present, the past, and the future, all before the footstool of the grace of God.

Matthew 6:14-15 *For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

Again, it's a heart issue! See that He addressed hypocrisy several times in this sermon. Don't be misled into thinking that there is works involved in salvation! It does not say that if you are unforgiving, you cannot be saved. We know that it is not true!

This does not mean that we must earn God's forgiveness by forgiving other people. We know that that's not how we receive salvation. The person who does not forgive another person's offenses does not truly appreciate how much he himself needs forgiveness.

Eph 4:32 *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

Col 3:13 *bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other: as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*

Matthew 6:16-18 *And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

Once again this is about the heart issue of pride, and self exultation. Fasting emphasized the denial of the flesh, but the Pharisees were glorifying their flesh by drawing attention to themselves.

He said nothing to discourage them from fasting. He only condemned showy fasting.

Application for today - check your heart!

Know who you are in Christ and Who you belong to. God takes care of you because you are His daughter. He has provided for you. He has forgiven you. He loves you. He wants relationship with you. Talk to Him like your best friend.

Easter Break – March 31

Next Lesson – April 7

Week 9 – Replacing Greed and Anxiety with Generosity and Faith