

PRAYER INTENSIVE WEEK FOUR

HOW TO PRAY THE LORD'S WAY

Matthew 6:5-14

We end with the model prayer.

Jesus has been teaching 1000's: the beatitudes, salt and light, keep the laws, what is murder – adultery – divorce – contracts – revenge, and even to love our enemies.

The disciples then ask Jesus – “Teach us to pray...”

They see the power of it.

They see the outcome in Jesus' life.

They have experienced the closeness of Jesus and his heavenly father.

Teach us!! Jesus would reference personally prayer 42 times and we have 28 recorded prayers of Christ.

Illus: Childrens ears:

“Give us this steak and daily bread, and forgive us our mattresses...”

“Our Father, who are in heaven, Howard is your name...”

“Lead a snot into temptation...”

“Our Father, who art in heaven, How did ya know my name?...”

“lead us not into temptation, but deliver us some email...”

The Lords prayer has lost a special place in many of our religious life.

We used to pray it weekly – graveside – football games – weddings – communion...

This prayer is poetic and beautiful yet profound and somewhat brief.

Before we jump into HOW TO PRAY – Scripture teaches us HOW NOT TO PRAY!

HOW NOT TO PRAY

Text V 5-8

1. Don't pray for personal recognition. V5

Notice – Jesus assumes his followers WILL pray. Doesn't ask them “to” pray. Assumption.

The religious people loved to pray – and draw attention to it.

Hypocrite = one who wears a mask. That does not belong to him.

Many try to equate men's applause with Gods approval. NOPE!

Many successful preachers and religious leaders are HELL BOUND.

If not HELL BOUND, they have received their reward here.

Illus: I have been told “great prayer”. That’s not why I pray.

V6 – Pray without distraction.

It doesn’t have to be interpreted “alone/private”

We should pray in private at some time:

*For focus – no distractions

Kids/Cell Phones/TV/Crowds

*For communication

How does God speak? His word.

Do you join together prayer and Gods word?

*For privacy

Some prayer are just between you and God!

Prayers for lost – spouses – kids – personal sins

2. **Don’t pray with meaningless repetition** V7-8

We must reject the urge to blather on...

God knows before we ask!! He usually doesn’t need explanations...

Prayer is not an effort to overcome Gods unwillingness to respond by wearying Him with our words. **remember two weeks ago- persistent.

1 Kings 18:26 –

Acts 19:34 –

Country preacher = our prayers shouldn’t be hazy, lazy or crazy.

DL Moody = “Some mens prayers need to be cut short at both ends and set on fire in the middle.”

John Bunyan = “When thou prayest, rather let thy heart be without words than thou words be without heart.”

PRAYER POINTERS:

Interesting note here: Its in verse 7-8 that tells us not to allow prayer to become repetition only to be followed by “The Lord’s Prayer” which is the most recited repititous prayer on all the religious world.

Biblical note: The prayer here is better called the disciples prayer or the model prayer and not the Lords prayer. The actual Lords prayer is on John 17 whre Jesus is crying out to the Father as he prays for UNITY among his followers.

Diagram of the Prayer: V9-13

To Whom is the Prayer Directed – Our Father	V9
3 Request for God's Glory	
Adoration: "Hallowed be your name"	V9
Affirmation: "Your kingdom come"	V10
Acceptance: "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"	V10
4 Request for our good	
Provision: "Give us this day our daily bread"	V11
Pardon: "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"	V12
Protection: "And lead us not into temptation"	V13
Power: "But deliver us from the evil one"	V13

TEXT – Matthew 6: 9-13

When was the ending added or omitted?

1662 – Book of Common Prayer – Its called the Doxology of the Model Prayer

Interesting – It started in Catholic masses – when the protestants added it, the Catholics dropped it...

To Whom is the Prayer Directed

If we get these first four words right we cannot go wrong!

Father is "abba" – our word is "daddy"

Surrender to Christ is required to have this type relationship.

The Model prayer is for believers.

Its meant to be an intimate prayer.

Illus: Our heavenly father is a good father. Not all our bad qualities of a father.

Men - Don't make our heavenly father in your image – make you in his!

3 Request for Gods Glory:**1. Adoration – "Hallowed be your name"**

Hallowed = to make holy.

We are to treat the name of God with holiness.

Sanctification helps in this process.

So... He is intimate like a father but also infinite in holiness.

Gods nature is like a daddy but His name is HOLY.

We can have a relationship but also treat him with Holiness.

He is our friend but also a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29)

Isaiah 29:13 – “The Lord says, These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”

When we focus on him, the focus is not on us.

**It helps me with perspective.

We must: refrain from using Gods name idly. Its not a cuss work or an exclamation point.

No GOSH – GEEZ – OMG Nope.

Not trying to be legalistic – just trying to be HOLY.

Hallowed is your name!

2. Affirmation – “Your kingdom come”

Kingdom = rule or reign

This is a prayer of surrender and service.

This is asking God to come and live in and through you.

He is #1 – His rule is law. He gives the leadership, boundaries and makes the decisions.

Who are we following? Your kingdom.

Luke 17:21 – “the kingdom of God is within you”

CAN YOU IMAGINE?? If this happened....

It will happen one day... but what about today??

Can you imagine the change that would require in our life? Church? Culture?

3. Acceptance- “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”

This is calling God to take control.

Take control of our lives.

Bringing us into conformity with him.

Any area that needs addressed – I’m ready. Everything’s on the table God.

?Are you ready for everything to be under the microscope?

?Do we need to stop here and confess?

Half way – Half way!!

Its half way before Jesus allows us to ask anything for ourselves.

The first half is God focused: Adoration – Affirmation – Acceptance

The second half focuses on the believer. (again believer)

The prayer, and our prayers should move from Gods glory to our good. Good model!

The teaching is this: Once God has been given his proper place, then we can have the proper perspective of ourselves.

Illus: Kid praying loud – brother says God isn’t hard of hearing – no, bur grandma is! We don’t have to shout these prayers to God.

4 Request for our good:

1. Provision – “Give us this day our daily bread”

Bread represents all our physical needs...

Yes needs – not greeds, or wants but NEEDS.

“This day” – bread was made daily.

God provides for us one day at a time. We don’t store up.

Proverb 30:8 – “Give me neither poverty or riches, but give me only my daily bread.”

2. Pardon – “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”

The first request was physical –

The second request is a need of the human heart.

Only God can grant us pardon from punishment and guilt.

Debt = something owed, must be paid back.

Sin is a debt that only God can free us from.

But notice the clause – “as we forgive our debtors”

This prayer teaches us that it is WRONG to ask for forgiveness and not be willing to FORGIVE.

Look at V14-15 – This is how serious Jesus was about this – There was to be absolutely NO misunderstanding. FORGIVENESS IS HUGE!

A unforgiving spirit will stop your prayers and eat you alive from the inside.

??While I am teaching this is there someone who comes to mind??

- a. Someone you need to forgive?
- b. Someone who needs to forgive someone?
- c. Someone who needs to forgive you?

We are quick to point out hypocrisy. We label them quickly.

It is the absolute height of hypocrisy to ask God to forgive you and you not be willing to forgive someone else.

3. Protection – “and do not lead us into temptation”

Do you think God will answer a prayer like this?? Not the SS answer...

1 Corinthians 10:13 – “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond whatever you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

Psalms 19:13 – “Keep you servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.”

Some of us don’t worry about it..... we should always be on guard!

Genesis 4:7 – “But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”

4. Power – “but deliver us from the evil one.”

1 Peter 5:8 – “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

We ask to be delivered from that Lion - God help us!

V9 – Resist the devil! We gotta have God power to do that!

2 Timothy 4:18 – “The Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His kingdom.”

The devil loses – Jesus has all the power. God is stronger than Satan.

Prayer Practice

1. Pray this everyday. Its scripture!! (memorize 5 verses)
2. Use this prayer as an outline.
3. Pray the prayer with someone else.
4. Pray this prayer at the end of other prayers.

Unknown author:

I cannot say “our” if I live only for myself.

I cannot say “Father” if I do not endeavor each day to act like His child.

I cannot say “hallowed be thy name” if I am playing around with sin.

I cannot say “Your kingdom come” if I do not allow God to reign in my life.

I cannot say “Your will be done” if I want my way all the time.

I cannot say “Give us this day our daily bread” if I am trusting in me instead of Gods provisions.

I cannot say “Forgive us our debts” if I an holding a grudge or withholding forgiveness from someone.

I cannot say “lead us not into temptation” if I deliberately put myself in its path.

Recite prayer together V9-13

Prayer time.