

Worship Guide

SUMMER ON THE MOUNT - WEEK 2

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. — Matthew 6:1

The chapter begins by pointing out a wrong attitude. Stop doing things for God with the wrong motive. (For instance, giving to the needy). If you have the wrong attitude, then you've received the reward already. Our motives have to be right.

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites." — Matthew 6:5 (ESV)

Christian's pray to Jesus. **It's not IF YOU pray; it's WHEN YOU pray.** Then, Jesus says there is a correct way to pray.

Jesus points out the hypocritical, or wrong attitude, first.

*"For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others." *

Wrong Attitude - Praying to show how pious you are or to put on a show. Prayer is a sacred recognition. It's not to draw attention to yourself, but to point attention to the Lord.

Pray then like this: Matthew 6:5 (ESV)

This can mean literally praying these words, but since Jesus is also talking about an attitude "like this," also means the mindset you have when you pray. It's not only using the exact words, but also understanding the attitude that this prayer reveals.

Let's examine both words and attitude:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.” — Matthew 6:9 (ESV)

He's our Father. He's the Father of all, even those who don't believe and follow Him. He is God of it all, the Father over everything.

Father - The giver of life. We are like children.

Start praying with the bigness of the Kingdom, enormity of Heaven, acknowledging the spirit realm first. Before you ask anything, before you seek God's intervention in any situation, start with knowing there is more than just the issues and the problems in front of us.

Name - When you pray, know that He is all things. His name contains power. His name is more sacred than all the rest. In that name lies all we need.

Acknowledge there is a spiritual world.

“Your kingdom come, your will be done.” — Matthew 6:9-11

Not my kingdom. Your kingdom. In a kingdom, things are done a certain way. Those ways are not set by the people of the kingdom, but the king. God has a perfect design. We are to let those ways come. There is a way His Kingdom operates. It's based on the values and principles for the way we live and interact with one another.

This is not our world. The things that we desire, which are often outside of the way God created us to live, are not the Kingdom values. We are to let His will be done. Let Your will be done, regardless of what I want.

First, let what You want to be done be realized.

His agenda first.

When you pray, ask for what He wants first. Before you ask anything for yourself, start with His agenda. The obvious question is, “What is God’s will?” In Luke 15, there are three parables in a row showing that He is willing to leave everything for that which is lost.

“On earth as it is in heaven.” — Matthew 6:9-11

Jesus says, when you pray ask about His ways and will coming first. Let His heavenly things happen on Earth. The way this happens, His will and Kingdom coming to earth, is by the way we live. We bring the things of Heaven to Earth through our relationship with Him, and with others. We bring the things of Heaven to Earth by bringing the principles of His Kingdom to Earth. Forgiveness, patience, mercy, etc. We bring the things of Heaven to Earth by seeking His truth, not our own.

Bring Heaven to Earth.

“Give us today our daily bread.” — Matthew 6:9-11

Daily bread is a physical need. It is essential to living. Jesus is in the details. He is never too busy or too big to be bothered.

Start the prayer with the bigness of God. The name of God has power. Acknowledge the spiritual realm. There is more to life than just what is in front of us, and this same BIG God is also in all the details. If we are not careful, if we don’t start in the spiritual realm with the bigness of God, the daily things begin to consume us. They become overwhelming. They rule over us, and we build our own kingdom around them.

Daily things that have the ability to consume are things that you think about all the time. Jesus wants us to start with the heavens, the fullness of God. He's not saying you should ignore the details of your life. HE wants to give you what you need, so place the details of your life in the proper perspective and priority.

God is interested in the details.

Place our needs in their proper perspective and place. The daily will consume us if we don't start with the bigness of God. The next time you are stressed about the details of life, remember the daily bread. Start with the holiness of God, His Kingdom, and put your needs in their proper place. The stress loses its hold on you.

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

The key here is not the debts. It is forgiveness. They are linked by the phrase, "AS WE".

He mentions it again at the end of the prayer.

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. — **Matthew 6:14-15 (ESV)**

These verses are like an addition to the prayer. Jesus did not want us to forget this part. Now that we know how to pray, we need to remember to forgive. This feels very transactional: If you forgive, God will forgive. After all this wonderful prayer — Father and child, His Kingdom on Earth, we are given a statement that feels like a transaction. It's really more of a statement about this attribute of God. The reality of the forgiveness of God.

Forgive - aphiēmi - To send away, dismiss, to let go from one's self.

Someone has wronged us. We carry it (the debt), this wound, because they have offended or hurt us. We don't send it away; we carry it.

Trespass - paraptōma - A misfall, slip, or mishap; a lapse. We either give people or we receive from people. These are ways we wound one another in our daily lives: a cold shoulder, sarcasm, cutting remarks, etc.

NOTICE THE PRAYER SHIFT:

Your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done. Our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." —
Matthew 6:13

This actual verse means, "Do not allow me to be led into temptation." Temptation will happen today. It's not if; it's WHEN. When this happens, deliver me from it. There is this understanding that we have a spiritual enemy that works against the way God created us and His purposes for us. Deliver me. Where God is my strength, I can be delivered. We need to work harder than the enemy is working.

There is a spiritual enemy. The prayer started with realizing the spiritual, and reminds us at the end this is spiritual. This whole thing — LIFE is spiritual.

The Lord's Prayer:

Spiritual - "In Heaven. Holy is your name. Your Kingdom"

The Lord's Prayer:

Physical - "Daily bread."

The Lord's Prayer:

Relational - "Forgiveness" from God, and for others
Covers all these different aspects of ourselves.

PRAYER ALSO DEALS WITH TIME.

The past - "Forgiveness."

Things that we keep dragging around, bad conversations or behaviors.
(Ours or others.)

The present - "Daily bread."

Things that I need now, urgent help in an area.

The Future - "Lead us. Deliver us."

Anticipations about the future, worry, fear about something coming up, anxiety about something we know is coming.

MY ATTITUDE FOR PRAYER:

- He is above all things. He is all powerful.
- There is a God-agenda.
- The Divine: He knows what I need. He sees me.
- He's concerned about the details of my life.
- My relationship with others can not be separate from my relationship with God.
- He deserves all my worship and praise, because His is the Kingdom and the glory.

Give Online

You can give online securely at theChapel.cc/give

Be sure to email yourself a copy of your notes.

(Message Notes Update Weekly.) ↘