



Week 2 (10/8-10/14) Teach us to pray: Meaning and Methods

Recap: Last week Pastor Tom opened this HCC Prayer initiative by reminding us of the spiritual battle that is in constant motion all around us. The battle is with our adversary, the devil. We get to choose how we engage in this battle. Our enemy wants to isolate, divide, and derail us from the purpose for which God has created us: to advance His kingdom. God has provided to us the spiritual armor needed to take ground for His kingdom and to His glory.

Today I get to share on how our caring God, has given us more than armor, He has given a command and has streamlined it into the following:

Matthew 22:36-40 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

When Jesus began His movement to show us what it looks like to live this out, He shows us throughout His ministry that a key element to live out this command is to approach our God directly through prayer. He would withdraw from the crowds and find a place to spend with God, our heavenly Father, without distraction. His teaching on prayer begins with this expectation: “When you pray...” Matthew 6:5 after giving some examples of how not to pray He presents His followers with a poem, which He gives us as a model of prayer.

Matthew 6:9-13

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (Or “the evil one”)

Jesus was starting a movement. A movement to show us that He was the way back to relationship with our Creator. He calls us to follow Him, to reject the way of life that has been hijacked by our enemy who would much rather us spend time concerned about ourselves, our worth in this world, and the that power over others is real power.

Jesus shows us His subversive kingdom and flips our habits on their heads.

As we take some time together to pray through this model, I will re-introduce a helpful tool I found and had an opportunity to share with you on a Sunday morning back in August.

The 5 p's of the Lord's prayer.

The Lord's prayer can trace a process of the following:

- Praise
- Posture
- Petition
- Pardon
- Protection

Acknowledging these stages has helped me get back to the intention behind what Jesus was teaching his followers to engage in; the invited relationship God has granted us with Himself and His work.

Something that was recently brought to my attention was the way this prayer is so masterfully crafted. The poetic structure walks our minds through that great commandment God shows us in Matthew 22. The first half paints instruction on loving God with all our hearts, mind, and strength. The second half leads us to live that love out in unity with God and those He puts on our path. What a thoughtful way to teach us these things!

So friends, I hope you are encouraged by this simple breakdown that allows us to bind ourselves to our King and His Kingdom work. We serve a Father who guides us in His light and listens to our requests as we navigate through our journey. Let's keep fighting the good fight together!