

How to Talk with God

Aware of His Glory

Matthew 6:9 & Luke 11:2a

We are in a series on How to Talk with God and are going straight to the best source there is by asking Jesus...please teach us to pray!

“Sadly, it is more often mindlessly repeated than genuinely prayed.” Kent Hughes

One of the things that we struggle with in prayer is “how” to approach God. Some recognize that he is holy, majestic, and glorious so they feel unworthy to talk with him at all. Others see him as familiar, friendly, and always approachable so they try to be as casual as possible. So, is any of this right? Today Jesus is going to clarify our approach!

Isaiah’s experience is instructive for us as he had a heavenly vision that included being in the presence of God and his angels. It was magnificent, but...

“And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!’ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said, ‘Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!’ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said, ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.’” Isaiah 6:3-7

Is God glorious? YES! (angels, shaking and smoke)! Do we deserve to be in his presence? No (we are unclean)! Can we approach him? YES! (he has cleansed and made us worthy). So...

Main Idea: Jesus Teaches that Prayer will Evoke Awe of God’s Glorious Presence

“Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.’ Matthew 6:9

“And he said to them, ‘When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name.’”

Luke 11:2a

2 Things to Hold in Tension as You Pray from Matt 6:9 & Luke 11:2

- I. **God is So Near to Us** - *“Pray then like this: ‘Our Father...’ (6:9) and “And he said to them, ‘When you pray, say: Father’...” Luke 11:2a*

The idea that we can approach God as Father (“abba” a familiar, intimate term) was shocking to the religious of Jesus’ day. They defaulted to the “terror at the wizard” approach. Jesus wants us to know his Father as he knows his Father...experiencing his glorious presence every time we pray! And, we CAN!!!

“For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.” Galatians 3:26

“He predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ” Eph 1:5

“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” Romans 8:15-16

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12

“For everything that Christ taught, everything that makes the New Testament new, and better than the Old, everything that is distinctly Christian as opposed to Jewish, is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God. ‘Father’ is the Christian name for God.” J.I. Packer (Knowing God)

A Good Father Makes it Clear:

- **His Kids Are Loved (Romans 8:38-39)**
- **His Kids Are Forgiven (Psalm 103:12)**
- **His Kids Are HIS (Hebrews 4:16)**

When we pray, Jesus says that we are talking to our loving, approachable, and near heavenly Father who desires to communicate with us. So, don’t fear or hesitate!

Main Idea: Jesus Teaches that Prayer will Evoke Awe of God’s Glorious Presence

- II. **God is So Different from Us** – *“...in heaven, hallowed be your name.” and “...hallowed be your name” Luke 11:2b*

We must be reminded of the Father’s glory, majesty, and holiness as we pray! Jesus notes that God is in heaven, and that His name is to be hallowed (regarded as holy). The nearness of our heavenly Father in NO WAY diminishes his glory or greatness!

“Holiness, in fact, is God’s chief characteristic. It’s the attribute that ties all his other attributes together. His love is holy, his justice is holy, his mercy is holy, he is Holy, holy, holy!” Tony Evans

“God’s ‘name’ is God himself...his name is already ‘holy’ in that it is separate from and exalted over every other name. But we pray that it may be hallowed, ‘treated as holy’ because we ardently desire that due honor may be given to it, that is to him whose name it is, in our own lives, in the church and in the world.” John Stott

My own dad wasn’t perfect but was loving and near. He commanded respect in the lives of his children. I called him “dad”, but I would never call him “my homeboy.” I genuinely feared my loving father. He was larger than life, and I knew that we were not the same at that stage in my life.

“The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens! Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth” Psalms 113:4-6 – No one like our God!!!

This prayer guide that Jesus gives us in Matthew and Luke reminds us that genuine prayers will be both simple and sincere, but also aware...

Main Idea: Jesus Teaches that Prayer will Evoke Awe of God's Glorious Presence

These are two Realities about God to Hold in Tension:

- God is so near to Us
- God is so different from Us

There's a well-known story about an old army veteran in the 1800's who desperately needed to speak with President Abraham Lincoln, so he traveled to Washington and tried to make an appointment at the gates of the White House. He was turned away by security and staff, they just would not let him have access. Since the man's problem could only be solved by the President, he was distraught and sat on the curb of Pennsylvania Avenue weeping. A young boy walked up and was concerned, asking the old veteran why he was crying. The man said, "I have a problem that only the president can solve, but I can't get access to him. The security and staff won't let me in the building!" The boy said, "you want to talk to the president?" "YES!" the man replied. "Well, let's go!" the boy said and took the man by the hand. They walked through the gate, right by security guards, right past offices, staff, soldiers and right into the president's private office where stood the tall, lanky Lincoln. Nobody even tried to stop them, as the little boy said, "Hey dad, this man needs to talk to you!" The boy's name was Tad Lincoln.

"For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father." **Ephesians 2:18**

The God who is So Near, and So Different is available to you through Jesus Christ. Be saved today and enjoy the glorious presence that Jesus provides!

Guided Prayer Time: Aware of His Glorious Presence...

- **Acknowledge How God is Different** - *I worship you because you are...*
- **Appreciate How God is Approachable** - *Help me trust you with...*

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- CSB Study Bible – Trevin Wax (2017)
- Bible Exposition Commentary – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- Studies in the Sermon on the Mount – Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1976)
- The Sermon on the Mount – R. Kent Hughes (2001)
- Exploring the Gospel of Matthew – John Phillips (2014)
- The Message of the Sermon on the Mount – John Stott (1985)
- New American Commentary: Matthew – Craig Bloomberg (1992)
- Word Pictures in the New Testament – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- Tony Evans Study Bible – Tony Evans (2019)