



## **How to Pray for What is Most Important** **Luke 11:1-4**

**Pray for God's Name to be holy in all our ways.**

<sup>2</sup>And he said to them, "When you pray, say:  
"Father, hallowed be your name."

### **Text Message:**

o "The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers... In it we ask, not only for all the things we can rightly desire, but also in the sequence that they should be desired. This

prayer not only teaches us to ask for things, but also in what order we should desire them.” Thomas Aquinas (13<sup>th</sup> century)

- o In other words, “first things first” and God is first, not us!
- o How easy it is to forget this when prayer is about our “lists!”
- o We pray for God’s Name to be holy in our lives because:
  - 1) This was God’s intention for humankind as his image-bearers (Genesis 1:26: “image” Hebrew *tselem*, “shadow”).
  - 2) Although marred by sin, this intention is restored in Christ.
  - 3) Our highest calling is to look like Jesus and walk like Him: Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him... Ephesians 4:1
- o “[God’s] work then, is realized for us and in us only if his name is hallowed by us and in us.” *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2808.
- o *May we not settle for lesser priorities and lower living!*

## **Pray for God's Name to be holy in all our worship.**

<sup>2</sup> And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name."

### **Text Message:**

o "No one stares up at the northern lights thinking, *Wow, I'm incredible!* We are hardwired to wonder and therefore to worship... Like an eagle soaring, a horse galloping, or a salmon leaping, worship is the thing God designed you to do."

Pete Greig, *How to Pray*

o The beginning of the Lord's Prayer is a reminder to slow down, pause, and reflect upon God in awe and worship:

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. Psalm 131:1-2

o “The soul is like a wild animal—tough, resilient, savvy, self-sufficient and yet exceedingly shy. If we want to see a wild animal, the last thing we should do is to go crashing through the woods, shouting for the creature to come out.”

Parker J. Palmer

*o May we experience our Father in quiet, stillness, and worship!*

## **Pray for God’s Name to be holy in all our world.**

<sup>2</sup> And he said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name.”

### **Text Message:**

o The Lord’s Prayer is “truly the summary of the whole gospel.” Tertullian (A.D. 155-220), *De. Oratione 1*

o This first petition points us to what will ultimately be:

*For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2:14*

o God was praised before the beginning of

creation...

God is praised in our worship and the way we live...

God will be praised one day in fullness (Phil. 2:10-11).

*o May we pray in joyful hope of that day!*