

- "Understanding the Lord's Prayer" (Matthew 6:5-13) -- 10/6/19 PM
- **Medicine doesn't cure anyone, rightly administered medicine cures. In some ways, prayer is like medicine. It offers a cure to our deepest ills.**

But the Lord's Prayer gives us the instructions on *how* for pray. Jesus doesn't just give us a medicine for our sickness but shows us how that medicine should be rightly administered.

Turn to Matthew 6 (page 964)

- Middle of the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus is teaching His disciples about the Kingdom of Heaven
- In this section He teaches His disciples how Kingdom citizens should pray

The Lord's Prayer is the prescription for prayer
This prescription answers three questions:

To whom should we pray?
How should we pray?
What should we pray?

1) To Whom Should We Pray?

A) We Pray to our Father

- **v. 9** -- "Our Father in heaven"

Our first instinct should be to ask, *how is this even possible?!?*

Jesus says to the Jewish people in **John 8:44**, "You are of your father the devil"

Ephesians 2:3 says we are "*by nature children of wrath*"

- **Galatians 4:4-6** -- *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"*
 - **The Gospel!!!**

Prayer should be as natural as talking to a loving Father

B) We Pray to the Holy One

v. 9 -- "Hallowed be Your name"

Even though He is Father, He is a *holy* Father

C) We Pray to the King

- **v. 10** -- "Your kingdom come, Your will be done"
- **Everybody in Jesus' day knew that the interests of the king trumped the interests of the people** *And so too we pray, remembering that God's Kingdom is more important than ours and God's will is more important than ours.*

D) We Pray to our Provider

- **v. 11** -- "Give us this day our daily bread"
- Even though He is King, He is a *providing* King who cares about the needs of His people
- God delights to meet the needs of His people!

E) We Pray to our Savior

v. 12 -- "Forgive us our debts"

- We pray, knowing that we're sinners in need of a Savior!!!

F) We Pray to our Lord

v. 13 -- "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"

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- We believe that God is a sovereign Lord, able to deliver us!!!

The Lord's Prayer is the prescription for prayer that teaches us to whom we should pray.

2) How Should We Pray?

A) We Should Pray Sincerely

- Read vv. 5-6

- The hypocrites aren't praying sincerely because they just want to be seen.
 - They care more about *men* hearing their prayers than *God* hearing their prayers.
 - The issue is not *public* prayer, but hypocritical prayer

- Read vv. 7-8

The Gentiles aren't praying sincerely because they view prayer as a magic formula to get what they want

God is the pinata, prayer is the stick

These words should be the *pattern* for our prayer, not (necessarily) our prayer

B) We Should Pray Corporately

- How many pronouns in the prayer are plural
- Corporate prayer, but also private prayer with the Body in mind
- Pray through the church directory

- *Ask: "I realized all my prayers for you are generic. What specifically can I pray for you about this week?"*

C) We Should Pray Desperately

- v. 11 -- "Give us this day our daily bread"
 - Randy Alcorn -- *"It's hard to pray 'give us this day our daily bread' when you own the bakery."*
- Live in such a way to test the promises of God.
 - Us moving here -- fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers

D) We Should Pray Humbly

- v. 12 -- "Forgive us our debts"
 - Even as God's adopted children, we still need to confess our sins
 - Prayers of confession are meant to be teaching tools

E) We Should Pray Expectantly

- v. 6 -- "your Father who sees in secret will reward you"
- v. 8 -- "your Father knows what you need"

The Lord's Prayer is the prescription for prayer that teaches us *how* we should pray.

3) What Should We Pray?

6 prayer requests, three directed towards God's glory and three directed toward (corporate) human needs...

A) We Should Pray for God's Name to be Honored

- v. 9 -- Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

B) We Should Pray for God's Kingdom to Come

- **v. 10a** -- Your kingdom come

C) We Should Pray for God's Will to be Done

- **v. 10b** -- Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

D) We Should Pray for our Needs to be Met

- **v. 11** -- Give us this day our daily bread

E) We Should Pray for our Sins to be Forgiven

- **v. 12** -- and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

F) We Should Pray for the Grace to Persevere

- **v. 13** -- And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

The Lord's Prayer is the prescription for prayer that teaches us *how* we should pray. And when we learn to pray like this God gets the glory!

The story is told of a poor man who asked for financial assistance from Alexander the Great. Alexander ordered his treasurer to give any amount the man asked. Well the poor man asked for an incredible amount, equivalent to a year's wages.

Now this treasurer was astounded by the audacity and extravagance of this poor man's request, so he returned to Alexander the Great to give him the news. But Alexander did not respond the way his treasurer thought he would. He was not outraged, but delighted. "Let the amount be instantly paid," he responded, for this man honors me greatly."

"How does he honor you?" the treasurer asked, still confused. Alexander replied, "He honors me by the largeness of his request. By asking for so much he shows that he believes I am not only able to meet his need, but generous and willing to do it."