

Series Series: DIFFERENT/ Sermon on the Mount

Sermon title: Praying with Meaning/ The Lord's Model Prayer

Scripture reading: Matthew 6:9-15

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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Last week we took a look at how to pray in private.

The Lord Jesus told us in **Matthew 6:5-8** that we are not to pray to impress people or pray to impress God but we are to take our needs to our heavenly Father like a child takes their needs to *their* father.

God knows what we need even before we ask. But he wants us to pray to him for our own good. He also wants us to pray because one of the means by which he accomplishes his purposes, is through the means of prayer.

So, we are to pray. It's not an option for us. Prayer is a vital part of our relationship with our heavenly Father.

But, HOW should we pray?

WHAT should we pray about?

Thankfully, Jesus tells us HOW we should pray.

Let me first say that I will not say everything that can be said about 'The Lord's Model Prayer'.

As I studied this, I feel what **John 21:25**

I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written...or could be written about this prayer.

I simply exhort you as your Pastor to read it over and over and let the Lord work in your heart through this prayer.

Matthew 5:9-15

Pray then like this:

"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."

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.

We saw last week that Jesus doesn't say, 'if' you pray' but '*when you pray*'. Jesus says in **Matthew 6:5, 6, and 7**'*when you pray*'.

Jesus turns now to **HOW** we are to pray....the content. Notice that he says, "pray then **LIKE** this" and he doesn't say, "pray **THIS**".

Now, we can never go wrong praying the actual words of the Lord's Model Prayer but it's not a mantra. It's a model.

Jesus is showing us the way to pray and what kinds of things to pray for.

I just want to start out by saying how kind it is for the Lord to teach us how to pray.

He doesn't leave us guessing.

We have no excuses.

He has told us what we need to know.

Let's put a structure in place and then break it down piece by piece.

The first 3 requests are about our Father in heaven.

- *Hallowed be your name.*
- *Your kingdom come,*
- *Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

The second 3 requests are about us.

- *Give us this day our daily bread.*

- **Forgive us our debts**
- **Deliver us from evil.**

- The first word Jesus uses is "**OUR**".
Don't skip over that too quickly.

This is a *corporate* prayer.

The pronouns throughout are plural; our, us, we, your. So, Jesus is telling us what to pray for as a church. Prayer is not just a private thing. It is something we should do together.

- Our **Father in Heaven**

We see great contrasts here. We see a closeness in the word, '**Father**' and a distance in the word, '**heaven**'.

'**Father**' helps us in our hearts to feel the access that we have to the God of the universe.

We can call him, '**Father**'. He is close to us.

We are his children. Jesus Christ earned that for us.

Jesus made a way for us to have this kind of relationship with the Father. He is close to us.

And yet, he is in **heaven**. He is different from us.

He is holy and He dwells in unapproachable light, glory and majesty.

Man cannot look on him without dying.

Yet, we can call him Father.

This phrase, 'Our Father in heaven' helps us set our hearts and minds on how we relate to God.

He is transcendent yet close.

We should be in awe that we can even talk to him.

This doesn't move us. It should move us.

We. Can. Talk. To. God in heaven. Anytime. We. Want.

Does that amaze you?

That leads us to the next phrase....

- **Hallowed be your name**

The word 'hallowed' here is the word for holy.

This is a statement....declaring, "God you are holy".

But it is not a just a statement but a request.

"May your name be holy."

Name here doesn't just mean God's title or name but it means God himself.

"May YOU be holy."

But that doesn't make much sense does it.

God is holy whether we want him to be or not.

God is not going to get any more holy than he already is. So, what is Jesus instructing us to ask for?

Jesus is telling us to pray that God may be seen as holy, holy, holy; that people may consider him holy on earth...as the angels in untold multitudes do in heaven.

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

Psalm 150

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Habakkuk 2:14

We could say that the phrase in **verse 10**, "on earth as it is in heaven" goes with:

- Your name be hallowed
- Your kingdom come
- Your will be done

So, we are to first stop and recognize that we are praying to the only Creator God in heaven who we can relate to as our Father.

We are to pray first and foremost that he would be worshipped as holy and revered on this earth among people...in the way that he is worshipped in heaven.

- **Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.**

We are to pray for his rule and reign to be a reality here on this planet. That every knee would bow to him as King.

How does his kingdom come here on earth?

His kingdom is coming through the gospel being proclaimed around the world and through that.. the transformation of lives.

Men, women, boys and girls...delivered from sin and demonic oppression.

People from all nations being set free from murder, lust, theft, greed, abuse and idolatry.

So, when we pray for his kingdom to come in the here and now, we are praying for ourselves as Christians... to be salt and light, workers to be sent to the unreached peoples for people to be saved.

"Let your kingdom come, Lord in Hong Kong, in my village, in my workplace, in China, in India, in Afghanistan."

- **Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Simply put, we are praying for things to be as they are supposed to be. For things to be right and good.

In heaven, all obey the will of God without hesitation.

This is not the case on the earth!

There are 7.6 billion people on the planet.

7.6 billion creatures who daily rebel in their will against God's will.

So, these first 3 requests Jesus teaches us to pray are more important than our own needs.

We pray for God to be seen as holy on earth as he is seen holy in heaven.

We pray for God's kingdom to come..his rule and reign on this earth in the same way as it is in heaven.

We pray for God's will to be done by every creature on this planet...as his will is done in heaven.

We must not pray and skip over these.

We shouldn't go straight to our needs first.

But we are to pray for our own needs, as we see in the 2nd 3 requests.

Now, quickly I want to turn to ourselves.

I will not spend as much time here.

There are 3 request about Our Father and 3 about Ourselves.

- **Give us this day our daily bread.**
- **Forgive us our debts.**
- **Deliver us from evil.**

These are prayers for:

Physical provision

Spiritual provision

Protection

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

This is a request for Our Father in Heaven to take care of today's physical needs.

The Galileans at this time to whom Jesus is speaking to, would have felt this more than we do.

They were poor and didn't always know where the next meals were going to come from.

We should ask God for our daily needs even though he knows what we need before we ask him.

He loves his children and wants you to ask him.

What do you need? Really NEED? Ask your Father.

- **Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

This is more of a confession and a reminder of our spiritual neediness before God.

As Christians, all of our debts/sins were forgiven and cancelled on the cross, where Jesus died for our sins. But we still sin everyday knowingly and unknowingly.

We are to come before God and confess our sins and receive his forgiveness.

The Christian who truly understands how much sin he has before a holy God will be a forgiving person.

That's what the second part of this means.. "as we also have forgiven our debtors".....and verses 14 and 15 where it says, "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."

So, we are to go before our Father and ask for our physical provisions (of all sorts) and also ask for our spiritual provisions...forgiveness...which is what we need most.

- **Give us our daily needs Lord.**
- **Forgive us our daily sins Lord.**
- **Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

What does Jesus mean here?

It sounds like Jesus is saying that God leads us into temptation but we know that **James 1:13-14** says, "Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. **14** But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

Now the word 'lured' and 'enticed' here is like a fisherman trying to catch a fish. Our particular desires the fisherman knows and he uses the special bait on us to tempt us.

The fisherman isn't God but the devil.

Jesus tells us to pray that God will not allow us more temptation than we can bear but will protect us and strengthen us against the evil one, satan.

Do you pray for your daily needs or assume he will provide.

Do you pray and confess your sin before God in prayer, asking if there is any way you have sinned against God and not even known it?

Do you pray and ask God to protect you from the evil one who hates your guts?

Application

What's worse than the hypocrite, praying to impress others and worse than the prayers of the heathen that pray to impress God? The hedonist who doesn't pray at all. **Matthew 6:5-15**

The main point of the Lord's Model Prayer isn't so much about the details but the entire purpose is for us to ACTUALLY PRAY!

Why don't we pray privately or join the church in prayer time?

We need to slow down. I think this is the main problem. We don't have margin in our lives for prayer and when we do pray we are rushed.

Slow down.

Take time to pray and pray with meaning as you use the Lord's Model Prayer as a guide.