

Teach Us How to Pray – 7.8.20

BOOK

Luke 11:1 - *One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray...”*

- Jesus responds with what has come to be known as the Lord’s Prayer. It’s abbreviated in Luke, but emphasized in Matthew.

Matthew 6:6-8 - *But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*

- Notice, Jesus is instituting **quiet time**! Paraphrase, “Get alone, break away from distractions, make this a special time between you and your heavenly Father. Don’t feel tied down by structure or mindless religious acts. Further, God’s not showing up because He’s curious of what you need. He’s meeting you for relationship.”

LOOK

Matthew 6:9-13 - *This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today 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 the evil one.”*

Our Father...

- Interesting and uncommon opening: YHWH was referred to as “Father” 14X in the O.T., but each time it was corporately. As in, “Father of Israel.”
- Jesus addresses God as “my/our Father” = personal. He gives us the freedom to do so as well! (In fact, other than Psalm 22 which He quoted on the cross, Jesus always referred to God in this personal way.
- **Romans 8:14-16** – *For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.*

And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

- The term “Abba” is the intimate name a child calls their father.
 - We have daughtership/sonship through Jesus and are encouraged to call Him, personally, our Dad(dy).

...in heaven,

- Yes, He is a Father who bends down to meet us like a parent getting on the floor with a toddler, but we can’t lose sight His omnipotent sovereignty.
- In Roman culture, which they would have been heavily influenced by, the father in the house had (Latin) “portia protesta”. This meant he owned everything including the lives of his family.
 - Drastically, he even had the right to put a child to death. In short, everything belongs to the father.
 - What domain does YHWH have portia protesta over? From heaven down.
- In the opening phrase “Our Father in heaven...” we are acknowledging both our closeness and His ultimate authority: Dad AND almighty Ruler.

...hallowed be Your name.

- “May your name be made holy.”
- This is the first of six requests. The first three focus on the preeminence of God and the second three are concerned with His people.
- This first request is that ALL would come to know who God, His attributes and His reputation associated with His name.
- He makes His nature known in **Exodus 34:5-8** - *The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there and proclaimed the name of the LORD. The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.*
- “Lord, act in us and in creation so all humanity may come to honor You and know Your character.”

Your kingdom come...

- This is the main topic of Jesus' preaching and purpose. (see parables/sermons)
- In this second request, we are asking for His kingdom to advance in this world (believers and nonbelievers) by the orchestration of God, using us as He wills.
- It's good for us to realize we are not living for ourselves anymore but are members of a kingdom which is a greater purpose than our own lives. This is hard to hear in a selfish, individualistic society.
- In this kingdom, YHWH is the sovereign ruler who does what He wants because He's God.
 - The word king gets its root from the Arabic/Semitic languages meaning "possessor."
- There are two kingdoms on earth. One eternal and one temporary. Jesus mentioned the other in speaking about satan, "how can his kingdom stand?"
 - Eph. 6:12 – principalities, powers of darkness, rulers in spiritual places
 - Colossians 1:13 - *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves...*
 - Which kingdom do you serve?
 - Can those around you tell whose kingdom you serve?
 - How are you carrying the King's name?
- We are acknowledging He has all authority and our deepest desire is to see Him reigning as King.

...Your will be done as it is in heaven.

- Babies grow up very self-centered. Initially because they are completely dependent, but their lack of maturity overflows into their wants. Getting what they want is all that matters to them and not getting what they want is devastating.
 - How similar to a child are we when we pray? They are focused on our agendas, our wills, our needs, our wants.
 - God is not our sugar-daddy or genie, and our prayers are not wish-making or magic spells.
 - Prayer is a request with a heart of surrender to His will recognizing He's in control – not us.

- Jesus models this for us in the garden prayer. **Luke 22:39-46** – “IF it’s your will...” and “Not my will but Yours...” Jesus’ prayer begins and ends with submission to the Father’s will no matter the sacrifice.
- May all the earth (all people) submit to His authority as willingly as in heaven.
- **This third petition is asking that God’s will be done in and around us even if it overrules our wills.**

Give us this day our daily bread...

- 4th request: The word “give” in Greek is a continuing verb: “keep on giving us.”
- This is intended to jog our memory back to God’s provision for the Israelites in the wilderness. (**Ex.16**) God gave fresh bread daily, but only enough for the day. It taught them dependence as it revealed His faithfulness and care as Shepherd and heavenly Father.
 - This prayer is showing we are trusting our lives completely to Him to be our Provider, our Dad.
- **Luke 12:29-34** - *And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*
 - He will be faithful in providing both our spiritual and physical needs.
- **We’re walking in faith, if we follow you, you’ll provide for us what we need when we need it.**

...and forgive us our debts...

- What is our greatest human need? Love? Food? Water? Air? No.
 - It’s forgiveness from a holy God. Before salvation our eternal destiny is on the line. After salvation, a healthy relationship with the One who loves us most is on the line.
- **Romans 3:23** – All have sinned and offended a perfect/just God. All have rebelled and declared themselves as gods.
- **Psalm 136** – In this Psalm, “His mercy endures forever” = 26X
- **John 3:16**

- **1 John 4:9-10** - *In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation (appeasement) for our sins.*
 - His forgiveness is not based on us or on our merit, but on who He is and what He's done.
 - "Am I saved?" "Do you believe in Jesus and give your life to Him?" "Yes." "**Is God faithful?**" "Yes." "Your salvation is based on God's faithfulness, not your ability to get the prayer or emotion right."
- **We are humbling coming to our sovereign, loving Father asking Him to purify us so we can be close again.**

...as we forgive our debtors.

- Isn't that what bitterness or unforgiveness is? Our believing we are owed something by someone else. Perhaps is an apology or some sort of reparations, but in our minds, we are holding them as debtors.
- That "AS" is a big fat "as." It measures the forgiveness we receive against that which we give. This 5th petition is asking that God will give as much forgiveness and with the same expediency as we are willing to give others.
- Sin is the great separator. Us from God and us from each other. We all have clay feet on the rugs of each other's hearts.
 - You have been hurt/offended.
 - You HAVE hurt/offended.
- At the cross Jesus defeated sin/death and restored the cosmic relationship between God and you and each of us to each other giving love, freedom, life all through FORGIVENESS.
 - And God give us this powerful, cosmic tool to wield. He expects us to wield it with the same unflinching commitment He did.
- **Matt.18:32-35** – The parable of the forgiven man who refuses to forgive. – *"Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."*

- **Matthew 6:14-15** - *For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*
 - Jesus forgave his torturers.
- Perhaps you've really been wounded and thinking, "God only had to forgive me for lying, but I was _____."
 - We may question if all sins are equal, but it's irrelevant. What matters is that all sin equally separates us from a holy God with the just punishment of hell. Consider this. No matter the sin, the punishment is the same, but no matter the sin, because of His love, the gift is the same.
 - We must take our eyes off of "them" and place our focus on Jesus and what He did for us.
- Further, like it or not, forgiveness is obedience, and bitterness is disobedience to the One who forgave us. Release them to God's hands. Surrender yourself to His hands.
- **We are committing ourselves to respond to His loving, unconditional forgiveness by giving the same to others.**

Do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil.

- Better translated, "deliver us from the evil one."
- **James 1:13** – God doesn't tempt, so it's best understood as "Lead us out of temptation." "Help us avoid it altogether." This is coming from a heart that is craving being sinless before God.
- We don't have a competitor, we have an active enemy.
 - **Eph. 2:1-2** – "prince of the power of the air."
 - **1 Pet. 5:8** – lion seeking whom he can devour"
 - **John 10:10** – thief coming to steal, kill, destroy
 - He hates you and wants death for you, so he is willing to feed you candy until you self-destruct.
- Good news: this prayer is lining up with:
 - **James 4:7-8** – "resist the devil...draw near to God and he'll flee..."
 - Key: draw near, turn attention to, press into God.
 - **1 Cor. 10:13** – God will provide a way of escape.
- Do you hear the heart in this? **"Not only do I want to be free of sin, but I want to love you so much, I don't even want the risk of temptation. I want to be yours alone.**

Notice Jesus' pattern?

1. Relationship (loving Father and sovereign Ruler)
2. Kingdom matters (3 requests) – His reputation, His kingdom, His will
3. Needs of His people (3 requests) – Our needs, our relationships, our holiness

TOOK

Challenge 1: Spend a few minutes in prayer, with slide up of the Lord's prayer, and spend time personalizing and expounding each phrase.

Challenge 2: Don't allow this to be a repetitive prayer but carrying its pattern into your daily time with the Lord.