

:21 Seconds to Change Your World “Jesus Teach Us To Pray” Believers Statesboro 11-12-17

Have you ever been praying and someone says, “Wow, teach me to pray like that!” It happened to Jesus.

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, just as John taught his disciples.”

Now, it’s funny but, of all the things that the disciples saw Jesus do, the thing that impressed them the most was the way He communicated with the Father.

- You don’t see them saying, “Jesus, teach us how to walk on water.”
- Or “Jesus, teach us how to multiply fish and bread and feed thousands.”
- They said “Jesus, teach us how to pray”.

This prompted Jesus to sit down and teach them His 21 Second Prayer that we talked about last week and have been praying this week, The Lord’s Prayer.

Matthew 6:9b-13 ... Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Last week we talked about the power and beauty of saying this prayer just as Jesus taught it. We also talked about pairing it the 23 Psalm. We compared these two texts, both written by Jewish men, from the same village of Bethlehem. The 23 Psalm was written by David born 1000 years before Christ Jesus taught His Disciples The Lord’s Prayer. We saw that David’s Psalm is very Christian and Jesus’ prayer is very Jewish.

Both prayers begin with the **reality** of God and both prayers end with the **eternity** of God, and in between is the answer to the reality if every human experience; protection, providence, power, deliverance, healing and forgiveness.

Today I want us to spend some time discovering some principles found in The Lord’s Prayer that would help us as we pray.

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PRAYER

1) God Is **Holy** and **Worthy** to Be Worshiped.

“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name....” Matthew 6:9

hallowed: *hagiazo* (hag-ee-ad'-zo); to make holy, purify or consecrate.

Jesus is saying, “When you come to the Father, recognize that He is holy. Recognize that He is pure. Recognize that He is set apart.”

Our prayers should be directed to our Holy Heavenly Father and should include worship, praise, and adoration. This can be, but doesn’t have to be, limited to one sentence. It should be an expression of true worship and love, coming from one’s heart.

Prayer is relational communication. We are talking to “*Our Father*”, not a distant god. *Our Father which art.* The “isness” of God. Our Father who is!

- Opening your heart and expressing your feelings of gratitude to God may be awkward at first, as you struggle to say how you feel; but later, as your relationship grows more intimate, you will find yourself worshipping your Father all the time.
- It will become a daily part of your life. You will find the name of Jesus always upon your lips.

NEXT LIFE STEP: This week I will choose to express my adoration of God within my prayers.

2) It’s About **His** Kingdom, Not **Ours**.

... Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.. Matthew 6:10

This is not just a prayer for a future millennial day to quickly come.

- This is a prayer asking God to bring about His kingdom in our lives today.
- This is a prayer that God’s kingdom here on this earth will grow and that God’s people will develop into kingdom people, who live by the words, rule, and reign of ‘The King of all Kings’.

A lot of our prayers are selfish prayers; “**God, can my will be done**” prayers.

Asking for God’s will to be done here on earth is an acknowledgment that you are laying down your life and your will. You are seeking God’s priorities over your own.

- You are saying that you are ready to accept His perfect will here on earth, just like His perfect will is carried out in heaven.
- These words express an attitude of dying to yourself and being totally surrendered to God’s will.

Matt 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

When we come to God in prayer, it's all about Him. It's not about us. It's all about who He is. It's all about what He's doing. What are His priorities for us? What is His agenda for my life?

Matthew 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Maybe, we need to repent and change the way we are thinking about how we pray. The Kingdom of Heaven is near, and we sure don't want to miss it because we are too concerned with our own priorities.

NEXT LIFE STEP: This week I will ask God to bring about His Kingdom within me.

3) Realize Our Provision Comes From God.

Give us this day (today) our daily bread... Matthew 6:11

This doesn't mean that we are limited to only praying for bread, but rather this is an acknowledgment that God is the provider of all of our needs.

- It suggests an attitude of looking to God as the sole provider of all our substance.
- It's a statement that we are not self-reliant, thinking, "I can take care of myself".
- Jesus can provide all of our needs, and He is capable of great and miraculous things as well as the daily needs of life.

Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. I think we forget that God is our provider. Many times, we think that we provide. Or, we think that Wal-Mart provides or McDonald's provides. Some of you think that your job provides.

When we come to God in prayer, we understand that God is our provider. Everything that we have, everything that we are is because He has given us gifts by which He meets our daily needs.

NEXT LIFE STEP: This week I will be mindful of and thankful for God's provision in my life.

4) Live a Life of Forgiveness.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Matthew 6:12

"And forgive us our sins". We have been saved by the blood of Jesus, and He has forgiven us and paid the price of our redemption. I wish that we could say since that great day of salvation we have never sinned again, but we are people of flesh who are learning to walk in the Spirit.

- Daily, from glory to glory, He is changing us. We are being transformed into the image of Christ Jesus. But when we sin, there is a provision for that sin.
- We are taught to be quick to seek God's forgiveness, and then to carry on without guilt or condemnation.

1 John 1:7-9 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

There is nothing like uncovering before a Holy God, confessing your sins, and coming clean!

Proverbs 28:13 (ASV) He that covereth his transgressions shall not prosper: But whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall obtain mercy.

In prayer and confession we see God as He is and seeing ourselves as we are!

"What a man is, he is alone on his knees before God, and no more." Robert Murray McCheyne

... as we forgive our debtors. Matthew 7:12b "As we forgive those who have sinned against us."

This is a blunt reminder that we should be forgiving people. We should love people like Jesus loves them and be merciful to them.

In Matthew 18, Jesus speaks of reconciliation among brothers, and teaches that forgiveness is a requirement rather than an option. In the conclusion of that chapter, Jesus tells of the punishment of an unmerciful servant and then makes this statement, "...So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses" (Matthew 18:35).

Matthew 6: 14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵ But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

We must forgive one another from our hearts, and Jesus encourages us to pray for the grace to do so. When we have forgiven one another and 'made things right' with one another in the Lord, then our worship and prayers will not be hindered (1 Peter 3:7; Matt. 5:23-24).

Remember the heart of the Lord's Prayer is forgiveness and the heart of Psalms 23 is soul restoration. In other words, there is no soul restoration without forgiveness.

NEXT LIFE STEP: This week I will choose to live a life of being forgiven and forgiving others.

5) Seek God's Power to Overcome Temptation.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' Matt.6:13

And don't let us yield to temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Matt 6:13 NLT

Don't ever think that you are so mature in the Lord that you needn't be concerned with temptation.

- Ask the Lord to keep you from every snare of the devil and sins that so easily deceive you.
- You need the Lord's help to overcome the temptations of this world.

Ask the Lord to lead you away from the traps, to keep you from finding yourself in situations that may cause temptation.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

... but deliver us from the evil one.' Matt.6:13

The Word of God helps us understand our foe, the evil one.

- Satan is the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience (Eph 2:2).
- he is the prince or ruler of this world (Jn.12:31),
- and he is the god of this age who has blinded the minds of unbelievers, lest the gospel of Christ shine on them (2 Cor.4:4).
- Satan has a certain degree of power, but he is not all powerful. He is mighty, but he is not all mighty!
- **1 John 4:4** tells us that greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. Everyone born of God overcomes the world that is the worldly system that Satan has established (**1 John 5:4**). And, of course, he also works with your own sinful nature and desires of the flesh.
- As you will see this Wednesday Night at One Hour On Wednesday, **Ephesians 6:10-12** exhorts us to be strong in the Lord, and to put on the whole armor of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles or the schemes of the devil.
 - To make up for his lack of power and authority, Satan has resorted to scheming with trickery and deceit.
 - He is a liar and would like nothing more than to confuse you and cause you to believe his lies. More often than not, this spiritual warfare of which we speak takes place on the battle field of your mind. *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."* (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)
 - Satan desires to control your mind and cause you to walk in confusion.
 - Remember, he already has blinded the minds of unbelievers. You on the other hand, have the mind of Christ (**1 Corinthians 2:16**), and keep your mind set on the higher things of God.

Satan is our adversary, and like a roaring lion, is seeking to devour you.

- As you humble yourself before God, cast your cares upon Him, realizing that He cares for you, and then you will be sober and alert to the devil's attacks. Resisting him and standing firm in your faith (**1 Peter 5:6-9**).
- There is no time for sleep or slumber in our spiritual warfare. Satan doesn't give up easily. Even after he tempted Christ Jesus in the wilderness and was unsuccessful *"...he departed from Him until an opportune time."* (**Luke 4:13**) The devil is always looking for a more opportune time when people are weak or vulnerable, and he will try again.
- **James 4:7** tells us, *"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."*

Jesus is encouraging His disciples, and His future disciples to make that a part of our daily prayer life and look to the Lord to be our ultimate deliverer from the evil one, remembering that *"greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."*

NEXT LIFE STEP: This week I will pray for God's power to overcome temptation.

The Matthew 6 account of this model prayer includes a closing that's not included in the Luke account. This closing statement acknowledges the supreme sovereignty of God.

"...For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." (**Matthew 6:13**)

We would do well to look to Jesus as our teacher and our example as we pray.

As you pray, never forget that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Life App Group and Family Devotional Application

1. If you have been praying the Lord's Prayer daily this past week, how has it affected you?
2. How do you inject worship into your prayers?
3. What would it look like or mean if God's will and Kingdom came about in our lives?
4. Do we sometimes take credit for our provision, forgetting that it all comes from God?
5. Are you living forgiven and actively forgiving others?
6. How aggressive are you at praying to overcome temptation and praying for protection for your family?