

**3-12-22**

**Sermon: The Lord's Prayer**

Scripture: Matthew 6: 5-15, Luke 11:1-13 CTW: Psalm 121

Hymns: 626, 627, 629

Theme: Here Jesus not only teaches a prayer, he gives much information as to our approach to prayer...God is not impressed with many words, He wants to be in relationship with us! Today we pull the prayer apart so we can put it all back together for a better understanding as to why we pray the way we do. It depends on ATTITUDE, SUBSTANCE, AND KONDITION... (ASK).

**I. Jesus first shows us what our ATTITUDE in prayer should be.**

**A. How not to pray.** "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full."

The Jews prayed three times a day- morning, afternoon, and evening...remember what Daniel did when prayer was forbidden (**Daniel, Chapter 6**)...he still went to his room three times a day, opened the windows facing Jerusalem and prayed loudly so others could hear. He did this on purpose to show that he would not bend to the forces of evil.

Other Jews later did this to a fault...they turned this message of Daniel into a spectacle, shouting prayers on street corners trying to show each other up...Jesus says this has no value.

**B. Going into your room.** 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. Isaiah 26:20 says to lock yourself in the storeroom.

Here, the phrase "go into your room" really means go into your inner most private room. This calls into focus your inner most self...YOUR HEART TO THE HEART OF THE FATHER.

Intimate heart felt communication is to be at the center of all prayer, whether it is given publicly or privately. (REPEAT THIS)

**C. Don't babble like the others.** And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Remember the prophets of Baal on the top of Mt. Carmel, doing battle with **Elijah in 1 Kings, Chapter 18**...an epic battle where Baal's prophets babbled all day but to no avail!

Jesus says here that people who feel that they need to babble in prayer in order to get God's attention, just do not know who God really is!

## **II. Jesus then gives us an outline of the SUBSTANCE of our prayers.**

### **A. Our Father, Who art in heaven:**

- He belongs to all of us. We should not treat Him as an aloof stranger in prayer.
- He stands in the relationship of Father to us.
- When Jesus referred to him as Abba, he meant "Daddy".
- Our relationship should be close and personal.

- God is the one upon whom we must rely, He is our Father, Jesus and the Disciples are our brothers.
- In submission we turn our eyes toward heaven, we must remember that there is always a submission aspect to this relationship.
- Remember what it says in the Hymn: "Praise the Lord, the King of Heaven, **to his feet our tribute bring**".

### **B. Hallowed be thy name.**

- God is to be Honored, revered, above all others. "Let your name be Holy to all" is what we are really saying here. No other name or being comes close.
- Remember what happened when Moses asked God his name. God responded "I am". The third Commandment reminds us that we will not take that name in vain.
- Any name other than God would be too limiting. In the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman, she called God "El Shaddai- the God who sees" Earlier than that, Hagar, the mother of Ishmael, named God the God who sees me. That limits him because he is all seeing, all knowing, all powerful.
- We use finite minds to try and understand something that is infinite. That is human nature and we have to fight it every day because when we give in, we limit who God is and who he can be to us. Do not do that!

### **C. Thy Kingdom come thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Remember Jesus' prayer in John 17..."Father, thy will, not mine."

- The Jews unwisely followed their will and asked for a king and got an earthly king with small and earthly powers. After many years of many failed kings, Jesus uses this opportunity to bring them all back to God.
- We have God as our king and as Christians, we believe in the priesthood of all believers- that we in fact are to act as God's priests on earth. We need no other intermediary than the atoning act of Christ. All prayers are directed in his name.

#### **D. Give us this day our daily bread.**

- This takes us back to the time where the Jews on their journey were taught to be in humble reliance upon God's will for their lives. Remember manna in the desert, God was trying to show the people that He would take care of all their needs. God needs us to understand that all that we have, all that we are comes from Him. This nature of dependency is ignored by many people today...they take all the credit.
- God calls us to be reminded that we are in the same relationship with him- we are to rely on him for our daily needs---and ask him daily. Later, Jesus himself would become the bread of life...his body broken for us, and his blood shed for us.

#### **E. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

- Some people forget that this is a double-edged sword- we are forgiven in direct relationship as to how we forgive others. In a moment we will talk about the importance that Jesus placed on this as a key thought of the nature of the kingdom.

- This is the new message of Christ- one of love and cooperation between God's children- a rule that is good for everyday life and in business. This concept is stressed in John 13:34 where Jesus gives a new Commandment..."Love one another as I have loved you." If I forgive you, you must forgive others...

**F. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.** This also is translated "do not bring us to the test."

- In the James Disciple Road Class class we did a careful study of Chapter 1, verse 13, and found that nowhere does God ever lead anyone into temptation. We are tempted by our own doing...our human nature...our own evil desires.
- God certainly will test us however, like any good parent to see if the message has sunk in. God tests us to build perseverance, but He does not tempt us to sin.
- The Greek for the rest of this sentence where we say deliver us from evil, is better translated, "deliver us from the evil **one**". Everywhere there is temptation in Scripture you can be sure that Satan is there.
- Daily we must recognize that Satan is the Prince of the World and affirm that he is a force to be reckoned with here on earth.

**G. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever Amen.** This is known as the doxology and was added by early orthodox Christians to act as a creed or affirmation of their faith...all these years later it does the same for us.

- What could be more natural after acknowledging the power of Satan than reinforcing our idea of the power of God!
- “Forever and ever” is one of those alpha and omega type statements- as far as we will ever know, as far as anyone could ever see, there is only God.
- As the Ten Commandments say, “I am your God and you are my people. This is also affirmed by God in the Shema which calls us to daily reflection as the Lord’s prayer does by saying “give us this day”. In the Shema, found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, the Lord says this:
  - Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.  
<sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.  
<sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.  
<sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

### **III. Jesus gives us a “KONDITION” of prayer.**

**A. Out of all of the subjects to emphasize, Jesus chose this.** Here he puts the parable of the two debtors found in Matthew 18:21-35 into a proposition for our everyday lives. In this passage, the unforgiving debtor is thrown in jail and tortured for his lack of forgiveness. Jesus says that this is how my Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart. **Forgiven people forgive people! Amen? Let Us Pray...**