

April 2, 2017

The Lord's Pattern for Prayer

Matthew 6:9-15

- Having discussed prayer, Jesus now gives His disciples a pattern for prayer that encompasses the essentials of their communication with God.

God is the Focus (v. 9-10)

The Person of God

"Our Father..." (v. 9)

- God was understood to be the Father of Israel, but He would not have been addressed with such a personal term.

Isa 63:16 "...You, O Lord [YHWY], are our Father..."

- Jesus broke with tradition, addressing God as *My Father* 15 times in Matthew and 21 times in John.
- By telling the disciples to address God as *Father*, Jesus was showing...
 - They had the unique and greatest privilege of relating to God as His children, to enjoy the most intimate fellowship of His presence (**2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 3:1**).

- That as sons of God, they have become Jesus' brethren (**John 20:17**) joined into a spiritual community that is to image God's heavenly Community.

- That as sons of the Father they are to enjoy His love by walking with Him in dependent obedience.

The Place of God

"...Who are in heaven..." (v. 9)

- Heaven is the location of God's Throne, His Sovereign rule over the affairs of His creation, the Place of His glory, where all is in accord with His will.

- *Father & Heaven:* God is both intimate and exalted, transcendent, the Lord of creation.

The Praise of God

"...hallowed be Your Name..." (v. 9)

- God's Person and purpose are to be revered and respected as holy, distinct and unique, to be worshipped and honored.

The Petition of God

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven..." (v. 10)

- Because God is our Father Who is also the God of glory (**Acts 7:2**), we are to ask for His Kingdom to be realized upon the earth as it is in heaven.
 - We are requesting that the rule of God will fill the earth (**Gen. 1:28**).
 - We are also asking that the rule of God's will be manifested in our walk (**Eph. 2:10; 4:1; Col. 1:10; 1 John 2:6**).

Man is the Focus (v. 11-13)

God's Daily Provision

"...Give us this day our daily bread..." (v. 11)

- As Israel needed the daily provision of God's bread in the wilderness (**Ex. 16**), so also we need the daily provision of the bread of His Word (**Deut. 8:3**).
- As we feed on Jesus, *the Bread of Life* (**John 6:35**), the Word of God (**John 1:1**) by the Spirit, the Spirit is conforming us to be the image of God's Son (**Rom. 8:29**).

God's Relational Provision

"...and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors..." (v. 12)

- Our primary need.

Jer 31:34 *I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember [hold in my thoughts] their sin [against them] no more...*

- Our forgiveness is the only reason we are saved (**1 John 1:7; Col. 2:13**).
- God's forgiveness is the foundation of all His grace toward us and, therefore, we are to be those in whom this grace is practiced toward one another in Christ.
- The relational wrongs of others against us strikes the very heart of our souls; these cause the deepest hurts and disappointments.
- There is nothing more destructive to the revelation of God's grace than unforgiveness.
- We need to remember that there will always be offenses among believers, but when they occur we are to remember Jesus' Words:

John 13:10 *The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean...*

God's Protection

"...and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." (v. 13)

- Ask to be delivered from Satan's schemes (**2 Cor. 2:11**).