

## Intro to the Lord's Prayer (Disciple Prayer)

- Series on the Lord's Prayer. Not sure how long
- Not me speaking every Sunday.

### Matt 6:1-18

<sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them.

This is the context of the whole passage, which the Prayer Jesus teaches His disciples is right in the middle of.

- What we think is righteousness, the things that are right actions before God, don't do them to be noticed.
- the motive will determine the reward
- You will be rewarded but if the motive is to be noticed and you will have no reward with your Father in Heaven. Vs 2 **they have their reward in full.** There is no more reward due to you. You being noticed was the full reward and it perishes with you.
- You will be rewarded by those whom you seek notice from – they will notice you. (How quickly do we forget who was noticed in the newspapers yesterday, who won the world cup in Rugby etc..) You will be noticed while you are doing it, but then soon forgotten.
- Vs 4 **and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.** To be rewarded by Our Father, our righteous acts are done for Him and not for recognition. His rewards will be a crown on your head and will be given to you at the 2<sup>nd</sup> judgement before all believers and they will last for all eternity.

### Prayer

- We are not really like this –where we repeat prayers to be heard.
- VS 7 – **And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.** The prayer or the format of prayer that Jesus gave to the disciples was never to be a prayer to be repeated over and over again thinking that God would then hear you.
- This attitude is a bit like speaking louder to a foreigner so that they can understand you. Then we speak slower and louder and say exactly the same thing! Repetition is not going to unblock God's ear and move His hand.
- What I mean is by saying the same thing over and over will not eventually get God's ear. This is very different to be tenacious and faithful in bearing your heart to Him on certain issues.
- **Luke 11:1-13** Notice they watched Him. If He was merely repeating a formula surely after a few time they would have got it and therefore not needed to ask this question.

- So we see it was not because their neighbour repeated it that it was given – it was because he was persistent. If we are persistent in asking, seeking and knocking we will be given the Holy Spirit.
- But Lord – I did not ask for the Holy Spirit! They were asking Him how to pray and He says ask, seek, knock and you know how to give each other good gifts so how much more will your heavenly Father will give (*Good gifts*) you the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.
- Why the Holy Spirit when I am asking God, praying to God and I want and need Him to hear me? How can this be the answer to all my persistent prayers? How will this help me?
- The Holy Spirit is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Person of the Triune God. Is the 3 in 1 God ever divided? Do each of them know what the other is doing, thinking feeling? Does the 1 know what moves the other, what hurts the other, what the other is longing for?
- Therefore, does not the Holy Spirit know what God the Father is looking for and desperately wanting to see done but is longing for a man or woman to stand in the gap and call out to Him?
- The Holy Spirit will teach us and guide us how to pray and will even burden us on what to pray for that is already on the Fathers heart.
- Take it 1 step further, the Holy Spirit will even commune with the Father and the Son and we won't even know what about but we will be edified, built up. That is what praying in tongues is.
- You and I ask for a fish or bread and we are given so much more

### **Matt 6:8**

<sup>8</sup>“So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

- But He wants you to ask Him. He is not a dispenser machine, He is a God who wants a relationship with His children and wants them to come to Him and talk to Him. To notice Him for whom He is and not just what He gives.
- It is not just ask. It is seek and Knock. Ask in MY NAME. If someone come to you and uses another's name in the request and it does not seem as if that is the kind of thing the person would do – one gets suspicious. If the kids come and say Mum says ..... and it does not sound right I will not give the request. So asking in Jesus' name is not just tagging it on the end; Father I ask ..... Jesus said I can ask you and you would give it to me. Now God is gracious and sees the heart, but when it is like a slap on label to get approval that is not asking in His name.
- Asking in His name is asking with His heart and that is what the Holy Spirit gives to us.

### **VS 9 - 15**

Jesus then gives them this topical outline; not to repeat because He has just taken the time to say repetition does not unblock God's ears and prayer is not done to be noticed.

It is not a prayer to be slapped on the end of school assemblies or as one leaves a church meeting.

You can imagine the disciples having seen Jesus so often going to pray and then comes and heals and does all sorts of miracles and then He is off praying again. They see this and they ask – Lord teach us how to pray. And HE does – He gives them what is like a model outline of topical areas that we can cover in prayer.. It has 6 or 7 topics , depending on your interpretation – I'm going for 6.

In fewer than seventy words we find a masterpiece of the infinite mind of God, who alone could compress every conceivable element of true prayer into such a brief and simple form—a form that even a young child can understand but the most mature believer cannot fully comprehend.

Another indication of the prayer's divine comprehensiveness is seen in the seemingly endless schemes by which it can be outlined. When outlined from the perspective of our relationship to God, we see: **Our Father** showing the father/child relationship; **hallowed be Thy name**, the deity/worshiper; **Thy kingdom come**, the sovereign/subject; **Thy will be done**, the master/servant; **give us this day our daily bread**, the benefactor/beneficiary; **forgive us our debts**, the Savior/sinner; and **do not lead us into temptation**, the guide/pilgrim.

From the perspective of the attitude and spirit of prayer, **Our** reflects unselfishness; **Father** reflects family devotion; **hallowed be Thy name**, reverence; **Thy kingdom come**, loyalty; **Thy will be done**, submission; **give us this day our daily bread**, dependence; **forgive us our debts**, penitence; **do not lead us into temptation**, humility; **Thine is the kingdom**, triumph; **and the glory**, exultation; and **forever**, hope.

Those are but a brief sampling of the ways in which Jesus' magnificent diamond of prayer may be cut.

And I believe there is a purposeful order established here by Jesus.

1. The whole area of entering into the presence of God through worship. So we have here is **Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name.**
2. Move from worship into a time of intercession, into a time of establishing God's order or His priorities. **Your Kingdom come, Your will be done.** Moving from there we look at;
3. God's provision for our lives – **Give us this day our daily bread.**
4. Then into **forgive us our sins as we forgive others.** The whole are of releasing forgiveness and pardon.
5. Then move into **Do not lead us and deliver us from the evil one.** The sense of victory over the devil and protection against the forces of darkness.
6. And then the prayer ends with praise.

6 topical outlines for prayer. I believe if you learn to use these 6 areas you will have no trouble at all praying at least 1 hour a day. If you make the time and have the desire you will have no problem at all praying.

Want to show you a **Prayer Clock** that David Smith used in the Christian Academy.

Rather than not knowing where to start I know exactly where to start and if just goes from there. Once you start to do this regularly the Holy Spirit will teach you how regularly to enter into God's presence through worship. Where you don't have to spend hours and hours wrestling to enter into God's presence. You can walk straight into His presence.

From there I move into intercession. Once we are in the presence of the Lord and we have been to the throne then we can really do business. I like to know I am in the presence of God and in the anointing before I get into intercession. The principle is that you worship 1<sup>st</sup> and then with the anointing and your ear freshly a tuned to Him – you can move into intercession. I pray over a number of areas which we will look at later in more detail. But the order I follow is 1stly my own life, then over my wife and our marriage, then over the kids in turn, then over the extended family, then fellow leaders in the church then I cover the whole church, then other church leaders, then I pray for Letchworth and then the nation and Lifellnk. An ordered way that covers the areas I believe God wants us to pray into everyday of our lives.

Notice the order of the prayer;

- Hallow be **Your** name. **Your** Kingdom come,
- Give **us**
- Forgive **us**
- Lead **us** not
- Deliver **us**
- **Yours** is the kingdom

The principle here is that we honour God's name, we honour God's kingdom – put it 1<sup>st</sup>, then we are in a position to start asking, petitioning for our needs, dealing with our sins, those that have sinned against us, leading us – then it turns back again it turns back to praise – for yours is the kingdom the power and the glory.

That is quite important because a lot of people when they pray start with themselves and come to God and say oh, how awful I am feeling, please help. But notice the way Jesus said to start. When you pray say, "Our Father..." You start with God.

Prayer starts God ward, then you go into intercession, then you go into petition – dealing with sin etc. Lot of people start with sin. That is not what Jesus showed us here. When you are in worship if the Holy Spirit highlights sin in your life then deal with it, but don't start deliberately with your sin. Look at Him 1<sup>st</sup>, the author and finisher of our faith. The time to confess sin is not as you wake up and carry on because if you are not careful you have to watch out that you don't deal with it but the devil does not heap more and more condemnation on you and you never get out from under it. Get into the presence of the Lord, get happy in the relationship we are in and then with the right perspective the Lord can deal with sin.

There is an order – you start with worship and praise and getting into the presence of the Lord. Get happy in the relationship we have, then go into intercession, go into petition, go into confession dealing with sin, then you pray and basically fill yourself with the protection of the Lord and then you finish with praise. It starts and finishes with praise and the focus on Him.

Luke 11:1 the commentators say that there is a time gap of between 18 months and 2 years between Luke 11 and Matt 6.

Luke 11. “When You pray say”. Say it with me. Do you think Jesus was just filling up time when He said this or do you think He actually wanted them to say this? I want you to pray this way, or Matt 6:9 “pray in this manner therefore pray. Or pray this way.”

He wants us to pray according to these prayer principles – as I say it is not say it is not a prayer formula, they are principles. Topical outlines – 1stly extol Father and who He is.

Then He goes and is almost saying , I told you almost 2 years ago and then He goes and repeats almost exactly the same thing. Jesus is operating according to a principle.

I believe praying this way sets you up to ask, seek and knock. It helps you pray when it is easy, not so easy, when things are dry, exciting – it helps you through a prayer journey. Even taking chunks of it at a time throughout the day or over days, so that you come full circle to Him. It gives a strength and a foundation. You know exactly where to go. There are times the Holy Spirit will take you somewhere else in pray and that is great but you need a basic bottom line consistent way to pray that helps you pray.

But you may say I don't need this kind of structure. I think it would be helpful to get a structure in place that Jesus gave us and when we pray how He told us to pray to pray and once we have this firmly in place and it is consistent , then the Lord will take us into other areas.

What you can do though is if you run out of time in section 1 or 2 or whatever you can pick it up later in the day. “ By the way Father can we pickup where we were earlier on this” and away you go.

So let's look at the beginning part of the prayer. The paternal relationship.