

Matthew 6:9-13 - New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁹ "Pray, then, in this way:

'Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰ 'Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ 'Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Sermon on Matthew 6:9-13 by Kelly Larsen - - September 10, 2017

All of us have heard the phrase "familiarity breeds contempt", meaning we come to despise people, things, or ideas which we are overexposed to. We may not actually hate them, but we tend to take them for granted or not give them the respect they are due.

- How might this work against us as we look deeper at the "Lord's Prayer?"
- How can remembering that we are reading God's special revelation to us help us to overcome this tendency to think "I've already got this" or "been there done that"?

Read Matthew 6:9-13. This passage is often referred to as the "Lord's Prayer", but it could be more appropriately titled "The Disciples' Prayer" as Jesus uses the prayer to teach His disciples both *how* to pray and *what* to pray.

- What, in the beginning of Verse 9, would lend support to the idea that Jesus was teaching his hearers how to pray?
- Did Jesus intend for this prayer to be thoughtlessly recited word-for-word with the hope that, with repetition, God would hear us? How can reading the immediate context of the passage help rule out that intention? (ref. Matthew 6:7)
- Read Matthew 4:23. How can this introduction to Jesus's ministry in Galilee help us to see that Jesus was providing a pattern for gospel-shaped prayer rather than providing a prayer that was to be repeated over and over, word-for-word?

By giving us the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us that when we pray, we should pray with hearts intent on, or focused on, God. The focus should be not on what we want, but on what God wants.

- How do phrases in the Lord's Prayer such as "Your will" (verse 10), "Your name" (verse 9), and "Your kingdom" (verse 10) help us to see this?

Jesus also shows us in the Lord's Prayer that we should pray with hearts subjected to the Father. This concept is difficult for some, however, this often stems from a misunderstanding of the goodness of God and His loving nature and a failure to recognize Him as Lord of all creation. For those hidden with Christ in God, God is our loving Father Who has our best interests in mind.

- In what ways do the following portions of the Lord's Prayer show that we should pray with hearts subjected to God?:
 1. "Our Father in heaven" (verse 9) -
 2. "Hallowed be Your name" (verse 9) -
 3. "Your kingdom come" (verse 10) -
 4. "Your will be done" (verse 10) -

- In what way does the gospel reorient the desires and focus of our hearts and change our requests?

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus also shows us the content of prayer driven by gospel-oriented desires and focus. He teaches us *what* we should pray:

Verse 9 – "Hallowed be Your name."

What does the term "hallowed" mean? How can we hold up God's character and person for all to see so He can be worshipped? What can we pray to that end?

Verse 10 – "Your kingdom come."

In praying for God's kingdom to come, why are we sometimes reluctant to pray for Christ's return? How does the kingdom manifest in the hearts of God's children now? How does sharing the gospel spread God's reign in the here and now? What can we pray with the desire to see God's kingdom come?

Verse 10 - "Your will be done . . ."

On earth, God's will is often not done or done with reluctance, delay, or only partial obedience. Why would Jesus teach us to pray that God's will be done on earth "as it is in heaven"? Why should we pray for God's sovereign plan to be carried out on earth if we know He will eventually carry it out in full anyway? What would a "your will be done" prayer sound like?

Verse 11 - "Give us this day our daily bread."

Jesus teaches us here to depend on the Father's care for His children and to pray for things which are truly needs. Why do we who live in such abundance often fail to pray for God's daily sustenance for us? How does this also lead to a failure to pray for the needs of others? How does God use trials and hardships to remind us of our dependence on Him? What can we pray to show our dependence?

Verse 12 - "And forgive us our debts . . . "

What type of "debts" is this verse referring to? What lengths did God go to forgive these "debts"? How does a failure to forgive others when we are wronged show that we don't understand the gospel? What could some content of a "forgive us our debts" prayer be?

Verse 13 - "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

James 1:13 makes it clear that God does not tempt us to do evil. The word temptation could also be translated "trials" or "difficulties." Why are we often tempted to respond to trials or difficulties in a sinful way? What would it look like to depend on the Lord's help to overcome in the midst of trials?

Personal Reflection:

When you pray, do you struggle with lack of focus, tiredness, or not knowing what to pray? How does the fallenness of our flesh help explain this? How does the existence of Satan and the evil world system working against us help explain this?

What did Kelly mean when he said, "In as much as we are prayer-less, we are unbelieving"? How can praying specific prayers we know are in accordance with God's will (gospel-shaped prayers) help us to grow to trust that God hears and responds to our prayers?