

New City Catechism Class
Week Forty-One

Q41: What is the Lord's Prayer?

A41: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Matt 6:9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. . . ." (ESV)

Discuss the question:

- What three questions on prayer have we covered so far in Part 3?
- How does this question relate specifically to the answer of question 40?
- In what sense is this not Jesus' prayer?

Discuss the answer/Scripture:

Context

- What is the context of chapter 6?
- What are empty phrases? (Matt 6:7)
- What specific flaws of these empty-phrase prayers does Jesus draw out?
- What do empty-phrase prayers indicate about the disposition of our hearts?

Answer/Scripture

- What are the characteristics of the one to whom we pray listed in verse 9? Do we tend to emphasize one of these characteristics above the other?
- What is the general focus of the first three petitions?
- What does it mean that his name be hallowed?
- How might we pray for his name to be hallowed?
- What does it mean for his kingdom to come?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- What does it mean that his will be done?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- What is the general focus of the second three petitions (though ultimately there is continuity with the first three petitions)?
- What does daily bread mean? From whom does this daily bread come?
- What debts does Jesus have in mind? Why is it significant that we forgive others?
- What does lead us not into temptation mean? From whom, do we pray to be delivered?