



“Prayer – Part 2”
Matthew 6:10-13
Sermon Date: December 5th, 2010

Prayer:

Spend some time this week really thinking about the way in which you approach God in prayer. Are you strictly praying at the times in your life when things are bad or when you perceive that you have a need? Or are you praying regularly that the Lord would conform your will and your desires to line up with His will and His desires? If needed, come before the Lord in repentance for the way in which you have used your prayer life as a means of trying to get what you want rather than what He wants.

Review:

Last week we studied Matthew 6:5-9. In verse 5-8 Jesus clearly lays out two examples of how not to pray, namely, for the attention of others and through the repetition of empty phrases. In verse 8 Jesus begins to provide an example of how to pray in what is known as “The Lord’s Prayer.” He points us to the fact that we can have an intimate relationship with God, one in which we can call Him “Father”, and yet that does not negate the fact that His name is to be hallowed. This week we will look at the remainder of the example of prayer Jesus gives us in verses 10-13.

Scripture:

Matthew 6:10-13 -

- 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 lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.*

Handling the Word:

1. Read Matthew 6:1-18. Based upon what you read there, and what you know about the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7) as a whole, what is the context in which our text for this week (6:10-13) is written?

2. The prayer that is provided by Jesus as an example for us in verses 9-13 can be broken into two different sections. Summarize who or what the focus is in each of the two sections listed below.

Matthew 6:9-10 –

Matthew 6:11-13 –

3. It is important to understand what the word petition means when reading through this passage. Define the word petition? Looking at Matthew 6:9-13 list out each of the petitions that you find there (there should be six).

Petition -

1).

2).

3).

4).

5).

6).

Understanding and Applying:

1. In praying as Jesus instructs in verse 10, we should be praying that God's "kingdom come" and that His "will be done." Since Jesus is not saying that we must repeat those exact words in every prayer, what is the underlying principle behind each of those two instructions?

2. Do you regularly spend time praying that God's Kingdom would come, that His reign would be established in the hearts of people you come into contact with daily? Are you praying also that His Kingdom would come in anticipation of Christ's return? Do you long for the day when He will return for His people once and for all (Romans 8:18-25)? Why or why not?

3. What is the significance of the fact that we are instructed to pray for His will to be done before we begin to pray that our needs would be met? Are your prayers marked with requests for your will to be done or are they marked with a desire to see God's will accomplished?

4. In verse 11 we are told to ask that God would "Give us this day our daily bread." In a culture where we, generally speaking, have everything we need in overabundance, why do we still need to pray that the Lord would daily provide for our physical needs (Acts 17:24-28, James 1:16-17)?

5. List some of the specific ways in which you have seen God's provision in your life as He has met, and continues to meet, your physical needs? When you think about all that your Father in heaven has provided for you on a daily basis, what is your response before Him? Do you remain grateful, knowing that even in the difficult times (i.e. bad health, low income, etc.) that the Lord is providing that which you need (Matthew 6:25-34)?

6. In Matthew 6:12, Jesus tells us to ask forgiveness for our “debts” or sins. In terms of your ongoing relationship with God, why is it important that we regularly ask forgiveness for our sinful actions (Psalm 32, Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 1:5-10)? What impact does unconfessed sin have on your relationship with the Lord?

7. The second part of verse 12 instructs us to pray for forgiveness “as we also have forgiven our debtors.” What message is Jesus trying to convey between this part of verse 12 and also in verses 14-15? What is the relationship between God’s ultimate and ongoing forgiveness toward us and the forgiveness which we ought to show toward other people (Matthew 18:21-35, Ephesians 4:32)?

8. Read Matthew 6:13 and write down the final petition that we are to bring before God. We know from our recent studies that God tempts no one (Matt 4:1-11, James 1:13). In light of this truth, what then does Jesus mean when he teaches us to pray, “lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil”? In praying this way, what are we acknowledging about ourselves and about God (Matt 26:41, 1 Cor. 10:13, John 17:15)?

9. When thinking about Jesus’ example of what prayer should be like in verses 9-13, how does this type of prayer differ from the prayers that were offered up by the hypocrites in verses 5-8? What is the focus of the prayer Jesus provided as an example versus the focus of the prayers of the hypocrites? Which of the two examples best reflects your heart when you come before the Lord in prayer?