

Hope Church Small Group Study Guide 11-12-17 Sermon “The Lord’s Prayer pt 2” –Matthew 6:5-13

- Begin with prayer as a group.**

Focus of the Lord’s Prayer

- Jesus brings us to the heart of Christian prayer, in regard to its pattern and its content. **He is giving us a model that we are to build our prayers from.**
- Prayer is a great privilege we have been given as followers of Christ. God invites us to come to Him in prayer, promising to hear us and give us what we need.
- The Lord’s pray can be broken down into five key sections. Each section has a unique focus. The first section was covered in last week’s sermon:

Jesus begins by focusing on Who God Is.

[Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. -Matthew 6:9](#)

This week we will study the rest of the Lord’s Prayer. There are four areas of Focus:

Focus 1: What God Wills

[Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. -Matthew 6:10](#)

Prayer isn’t so much us asking God what we want. Rather, it is asking God that what He wills and **desires will be done on this earth and in our lives.**

When we pray “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done,” we are inviting invasion. We are asking God to invade our lives and invade this earth with his power, ways, plans, and purposes.

*In praying Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, we are asking that God would act and intervene in such a way that the will of Satan and sinful men would be broken, and **the gracious and perfect will of God would take place on the earth, as it already is happening in heaven.**- J. Gibbs, Concordia Commentary*

Discussion Questions:

- Where do you currently see God’s will being accomplished?**
- What is God speaking to you about His will and what He desires to see done in your life?**

Focus 2: God’s Provision

[Give us this day our daily bread. –Matthew 6:11](#)

Bread represents that which is necessary to sustain life.

Bread is one of the basic foods at any meal in just about every culture. With the word *bread*, Jesus is teaching us to ask for the basic necessities of life.

Martin Luther writes:

Daily bread refers to everything necessary for the preservation of this life like food, a healthy body, good weather, a home, family, good government and peace.

At times it can feel like God has not given us everything we need.

Yet Jesus taught us to ask for our daily “bread” and not our daily “cake.” There’s a difference.

J. Gibbs has a great challenge for us regarding wants and needs:

For North American Christians who live in what is perhaps the wealthiest society in the history of the human race, there is a grave danger of confusing what we want with what we need. We live in a culture that deifies dissatisfaction, and there is an entire industry that devotes itself to selling products, many of which no one actually needs. Perhaps we might pray a longer version of the Fourth Petition: "Teach us to distinguish what we actually need from what we can do without. Give us today our needed bread, which comes from you. And lead us today to give to others what they lack." -J Gibbs.

Discussion Questions:

- Why is it difficult to be content with what we have?
- Has there ever been a time when you felt your financial needs were not being met? How did you see God provide for you?
- How can we as believers seek to be more generous with the resources God has given us?

Remember that through preaching the sermon on the mount, Jesus is revealing to us the state of our hearts. We need his grace and power at work in our lives if we are going to live in the manner he calls us to live.

Focus 3: God's Forgiveness

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. – Matthew 6:12

For those who believe and trust in Jesus as their Savior, their sin has been paid for by Christ's sacrifice. Yet coming to God in an attitude of repentance, reminds us of the seriousness of our sin and how **we daily are in** need of His mercy and grace.

Luther writes:

This petition really means that God does not wish to regard our sins and punish us as we daily deserve but to deal graciously with us, to forgive as he has promised, and thus to grant us a joyful and cheerful conscience so that we may stand before him in prayer.

Discussion Questions:

Do you believe that in Christ all your sins (past, present, future) have been paid for? If not, how can you be assured of it?

In praying this petition, we are also reminded of our need to forgive others. The Good News of Jesus is so strong that it enables His followers to forgive those who have harmed and sinned against them. Receiving and giving forgiveness should be a part of our everyday existence as believers in Jesus.

When I forgive another who has wronged me, I decide that I am willing not to take revenge, not to bear a grudge, not to repay evil for evil, but instead to respond to evil by doing good. Forgiving someone when we've been wronged, can be extremely difficult. Remember to look to Jesus as your source of hope and strength. J. Gibbs reminds us of our need for Christ, if we are going to forgive as we have been forgiven:

*There is an important spiritual distinction between finding it hard (or even for a time, being unable) to forgive and being unwilling to do so. There will be times when all the disciple of Jesus can offer is a broken and a contrite heart: "**I know, Lord, what you require of me. I long to do it, but cannot, unless you help me.**" For such a one, poor in spirit, there is the message of God's mercy in Christ and the promise of the blessings of the reign of heaven already now. –J Gibbs*

Discussion Questions:

Has it ever been difficult for you to forgive someone? How did God help you in that situation?

- Take time to pray for one another, asking God to enable you to forgive as you have been forgiven.**

Focus 4: God's Protection

And lead us not into temptation. –Matthew 6:13

Scripture is clear that we battle not against flesh and blood, but against, rulers, authorities, spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. We have an unseen enemy, Satan, who is deceiver of all nations and accuser of believers.

Martin Luther sums up well what we mean by praying this petition:

We ask in this prayer that God would preserve and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice, and that, although we may be attacked by them, we may finally prevail and gain the victory.

But deliver us from evil.- Matthew 6:13

We have not been given the promise of an easy, pain free life. Sickness, death, sorrow, and difficulties are the result of living in a fallen world.

It is right and good to pray for God's protection and that He would keep us from the difficulties of this world.

Does that guarantee that harm or disaster won't happen in our lives? No.

So in praying *deliver us from evil*, we're praying for protection from spiritual harm that could impact our relationship with God. We're asking that in the middle of trials and difficulties, God would keep us from doubt and anger that would lead us to despair of His love. **We're also praying that our focus, hope, and trust, would be in Christ, even in the midst of the difficulties and pain of this life.**

Discussion Questions:

When have you seen God deliver you from temptation or evil?

How can we keep our focus on Christ as we experience trials and difficulties?

Closing Prayer:

Close your time in prayer thanking God for his goodness and protection over our lives. Pray that as a church we would seek to do His will, regardless of what it may cost.