



Week 2: Matthew 6:9-15

THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER

Building on the context from last week, the Sermon on the Mount unfolds further as Jesus contrasts hypocritical prayers performed merely for show. In these concise yet impactful verses, the Lord paints a vivid picture of genuine prayer, guiding us into the transformative presence of the Father.

THE SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 6:9-15

⁹ Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed² 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 lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

¹⁴ For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

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² As in to be treated with the highest honor and set apart as holy.

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 2

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Were you raised in a context where the "Lord's Prayer" was more openly said and prayed? What did that look like?
2. Apart from coming to know Jesus, can you think something in your life that completely transformed your behavior (i.e. a skill or truth learned, or even a major event)?

DIVING DEEPER

3. Give this exercise a try: Read aloud all of these verses and time yourself. Reflect on how long it took you to read them. Now consider that Jesus is teaching his disciples how to pray using this as an example. What does this teach you about where Jesus' priorities for prayer lay?
4. Within these verses there are seven petitions to the Lord. Using the space below, briefly paraphrase each in a way that makes sense to you:

Petition 1 _____

Petition 2 _____

Petition 3 _____

Petition 4 _____

Petition 5 _____

Petition 6 _____

Petition 7 _____

5. Consider the first three petitions above. What do they have in common? What do the latter have in common?

6. Take a moment to read Luke 11:1-4, and Luke's version of this account. Luke has chosen to not include some of the material that Matthew does. What does he leave out?

7. Jesus begins the prayer with, "Our Father in heaven," a phrase that conveys a lot of truth. What kinds of deep truth do you see, and which is most comforting to you today?

8. In verse 9, numerous contemporary Bible versions opt to keep the somewhat old-fashioned term "hallowed" in their translations of this passage to maintain familiarity.¹ What does that word mean? Can you think of something else that may be "hallowed," in your life or someone else's life?

9. Verse 10 speaks of a heart that desires to see God's "kingdom come." What does that mean? What could that mean for you today in just your life?

¹The Lord's Prayer has been known, embraced, memorized, and cherished in the English language for hundreds of years coming first through the King James Version in 1611. It's in this translation that we first see the word, "hallowed."

10. In verse 11, Jesus encourages the disciples to pray for "daily bread." Considering that the original hearers were in a subsistence culture holding onto necessities for life, what might that include for us today, and what might it not include?

11. Considering 1 Corinthians 10:13 and James 1:13-14 in light of Matthew 6:13, how could you encourage a new Christian who is struggling in sin? What principles could you draw from all three of passages to help him or her?

12. What do you think of this interpretation of verses 14-15:

"These verses teach that if I don't forgive people who sin against me, it means that God will take away my salvation."

Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? If not, what do you think these verses actually speak to?