

## I. THE LORD'S PRAYER

1. ***11 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."***<sup>2</sup> ***So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven 3 Give us day by day our daily bread. 4 And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."***-Lk 11:1-4

## II. REFLECTIONS ON THE LORDS PRAYER

1. ***"The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers. In it we ask, not only for all the things we can rightly desire, but also in the sequence that they should be desired." – St. Thomas Aquinas***
  2. Charles Spurgeon called the Lord's prayer "A ladder by which we ascend to heaven".
- B. The prayer begins with worship ("Hallowed be Your name"), calls forth His rule (Your Kingdom come) moves to surrender ("Your will be done") then to provision,(give us our daily bread), next to reconciliation, (forgive us), and finally protection.(delivers us from the evil one)
- C. This specific model prayer has been prayed more than any other prayer by the church. It has been prayed in every continent, every nation, in hundreds of languages and by every true saint at least once.
- D. The Lord's prayer is more than instruction on how to pray, it's an invitation into relationship and intimacy with our Creator. This type of model prayer would have been considered radical and out of the box in Jesus day, because of things it focuses on.

## III. THE LORD'S PRAYER IS MENTIONED TWICE IN THE GOSPELS

- A. Many bible scholars believe the Lord's prayer was taught by Jesus twice in two different occasions and contexts. It was first mentioned to the multitudes in His sermon on the mount teaching on prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 and then later in His ministry privately to His disciples in Luke 11:1-4

- B. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches on how not to pray (comparing the wrong way the religious leaders were praying), on how to pray privately, and then how to pray corporately. (The Lord's Prayer)
- C. Luke's record of the Lord's prayer is less formal than Matthews, and more relational, dependent, and focused on the need for the Holy Spirit.
- D. *The Gospel of Matthew shows us the architecture of prayer, and the Gospel of Luke shows us the heart of prayer.* Matthew's account focuses more on Kingdom alignment, Luke's account focuses more on relational childlike dependence.

#### **IV. JESUS' PARABLE FOLLOWING THE LORD'S PRAYER**

- A. Luke's account of the Lord's Prayer is immediately followed by a parable in which Jesus teaches about the nature of God. He describes a persistent man who goes to a friend at midnight asking for bread to help another guest who has arrived unexpectedly.
- B. The point of the parable is a contrast: the annoyed friend gives bread reluctantly, responding only because of persistence and social pressure. In contrast, our heavenly Father is not reluctant or annoyed. He is eager, generous, and willing to give to His children—ultimately giving the greatest gift of all, the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.
  - 1. Persistent prayer is not persuading a reluctant God — it is expressing confident dependence on a generous Father.

#### **V. THEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE LORDS PRAYER**

- A. The Lord's Prayer reveals the nature of God as our Father and shows us our position before His throne with confidence. It focuses on the rule of His Kingdom and the supremacy of His will, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done". It reminds us of our daily dependence on God for provision, our continual need for mercy and forgiveness, and the reality of spiritual battle we are in daily, as we ask for strength against temptation and deliverance from the evil one.

## VI. BREAKING DOWN THE LORD'S PRAYER

### A. OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN (INTIMACY)

1. The Lord's Prayer begins with a right view of God and a right understanding of our identity. A strong prayer life flows from seeing God rightly. If we see Him as a harsh master, prayer feels like duty; but when we see Him as a loving Father, prayer becomes a privilege that fuels joyful, confident expectation.

**a) *We approach not a judge's bench first, but a Father's heart. Addressing God as a Father is both intimate and reverent***

2. Jesus revolutionizes prayer by revealing that the infinitely majestic King who upholds the universe is also an approachable Father.
3. The concept of God as a Father does appear in the Old Testament, but was not widely understood in Jesus' day.

**a) *"Is He not your Father, who created you, who made you and established you?"-Deut 32:6***

**b) *A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation.-Ps 68:5***

**c) *As a father pities his children,so the LORD pities those who fear Him. 14 For He|knows our frame;He remembers that we are dust.-Ps. 103:13-14***

### B. "OUR" FATHER (CORPORATE)

1. It is important to see that Jesus taught us to pray "Our Father" not "my Father". Why? He is teaching us to value praying together, not just individually.
2. He is not only my Father, but our Father. We come to Him together as a family, and this prayer calls us to care not only for our own spiritual health but for the spiritual well-being of our church family.

**C. HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME (WORSHIP)**

1. Jesus teaches us to have a worshipful heart when approaching God in prayer. Before bread, forgiveness, and deliverance there must be reverence, worship, honor, and glory.
2. **Prayer starts with God, not our needs.** Jesus is teaching us to make God central in our prayers and not ourselves. **The purpose of prayer is God's glory not our happiness!**

***a) And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.-Jn 14:1***

**D. YOUR KINGDOM COME (GOD'S RULE)**

1. This prayer is not only for God's kingdom to work in our lives now—but it is also eschatological, pointing to a future reality and fullness where it calls for the return of Jesus that will usher in that fullness.
2. In addition, when we pray "Your kingdom come," we are asking for the present reality of the Kingdom that heals the sick, frees the oppressed, brings justice for the broken, care for the poor, and salvation for the lost.

**E. YOUR WILL BE DONE (SURRENDER)**

1. Jesus teaches us to put God's will and purposes over our own. This prayer is a prayer of submission to His ways over our ways. God answers prayers always according to His will and never ours.

***a) Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.-1Jn 5:14***

**F. ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN (GOD'S DESIRE)**

1. This prayer aligns our hearts with God's burning desire to unite heaven and earth in Christ and bring the fullness of what Jesus accomplished on the cross to the earth.

***a) 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.-Eph 1:10***

2. This is a prayer to see God's rule expressed, His righteousness established, His purposes fulfilled, and His order established.

## VII. PRAYER FOR FOUR AREAS OF PERSONAL NEEDS (LK 11:3-4)

### 1. GIVE US DAY BY DAY OUR DAILY BREAD (DAILY PROVISION)

- a) Jesus is instructing us to live in a state of continual dependence on God, and be free from false securities.
- b) Our physical daily needs are promised, but not our monthly or yearly. (James 4:13-15)

### 2. FORGIVE US OUR SINS (FORGIVENESS THAT RESTORES)

- a) Effective prayer is based on right standings with God and with fellow humans.
- b) Believers are freely justified by faith, so when they ask for forgiveness from God, it is to restore their fellowship with God (1 Jn. 1:9), not to be saved from hell.

(1) Jesus told Peter that he was completely clean, so needed only to have his feet washed (Jn. 13:10). We need a daily washing of forgiveness because we live in the flesh.

### 3. FOR WE ALSO FORGIVE EVERYONE WHO IS INDEPTED TO US

- a) The proof that we have been forgiven is that we are compelled with gratitude to forgive others. We can't expect forgiveness if we are not willing to forgive. Unforgiveness is the quickest way to hinder our prayer life.

*(1) Your heavenly Father will forgive you if you forgive those who sin against you; but if you refuse to forgive them, he will not forgive you.-Mt. 6:15*

### 4. DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE

- a) This is a prayer asking the Father to strengthen and protect us from the schemes of Satan.

- b) Scripture makes clear that God does not tempt anyone with evil (James 1:13). Rather, in this petition we are asking Him to guide us away from situations where we might fall and to give us grace to escape the temptations and attacks of the enemy.