

God First: Building a Prayer-Centered Relationship with God – Week Three

What the Lord's Prayer Really Means, pt. 2

Asking In Light of His Glory – Matthew 6:9-13

Introduction: There are 3 sections to the Lord's Prayer. When we come to the *asking* section Jesus instructs us to make both broad and specific requests for our needs – but always in light of God's glory.

1. 1ST NEED – “Give us this day our daily bread.” *Matthew 6:11*

- A. What this prayer meant in the first century
 - 1. Bread was the *basic* need, and bread represented *all* our needs.
 - 2. Jesus taught about this in his two feeding miracles.
- B. What this prayer means today
 - 1. It means we ask God for simple things.
 - 2. It means we ask God for big things.
 - 3. It means we ask him for the things related to our “thorn.”
 - 4. It means we remember the time-frame of this request: today.
- C. How should we think after we pray this prayer?
 - 1. Expectations – Since the time frame is “today”, be content with uncertainty.
 - 2. Attitude – God's vision is that we would overflow with thanksgiving.

2. 2ND NEED – “Forgive us our debts.” *Matthew 6:12*

- A. The Bible teaches two kinds of forgiveness: legal and relational.
 - 1. Our judicial forgiveness took place once-for-all on the cross.
 - 2. Our relational forgiveness should take place on a daily basis.
 - 3. We see this during the foot-washing incident in the gospels.
- B. We need to come to God regularly for forgiveness.
 - 1. Coming daily requires humility to see correctly. No denial!
 - 2. Coming daily requires specific confession, both personal and corporate.
- C. Our daily cleansing carries with it an obligation: we must forgive others.

3. 3RD NEED – “Lead us not into temptation.” *Matthew 6:13a*

- A. Problem: This part of the Lord's Prayer has confused people...seems contradictory.
- B. Paraphrase: “Protect me from serious testing that might destroy me.” Ex: Gethsemane!

4. 4TH NEED – “Deliver us from the evil one.” *Matthew 6:13b*

- A. The term evil has a definite article in front of it: This is a reference to Satan.
 - 1. Satan's identity: He's a fallen angel leading hoards of lesser fallen angels.
 - 2. Satan's agenda: He intends to move you away from God in practice.
 - 3. Satan's tactics: Lull you into complacency.
- B. The prayer is a plea for strength in spiritual warfare.
 - 1. On the one hand, Satan is a defeated enemy.
 - 2. On the other hand, God calls you into spiritual warfare on a daily basis.
 - 3. Each day pray against the evil one's agenda...put on armor.

5. CONCLUSION – It's all about his glory. *Matthew 6:13c*