



## Exploring the Kingdom of God in Matthew: Learning from The Lord's Prayer

January 14, 2017

**Text: Matthew 6:9-13**

### LEARNING FROM THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Mat 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.**

- First, when we pray, we should be amazed at our great privilege to call God, the creator of heaven and earth, “Our Father.”
- Father is the word *patēr* in Greek. It means among other things, “He who creates, invents, makes or composes any thing; the author, former or contriver; a founder, director or instructor.” -Webster 1828
- To call God our Father is to know Him **intimately** as children know their father. It is to cry out “Abba” to the one who originated us and has made us partakers of Himself (2 Pet 1:4).
- “The first words of our Text, ‘our Father,’ throw away all selfishness at a breath. ‘Father,’ the fountain-word of all love and all confidence.”
- Also, it’s critical that we go before God **reverently**. “Our Father which art in heaven” is a statement that acknowledges the power, holiness, sovereignty, and immutability of God.
- God is in heaven. Of course God is omnipresent (Ps 139). To acknowledge that God is in heaven is to declare that He is totally other. He is above all and rules all. He exists outside time and space. He is so holy that He requires a holy realm. His is in absolute charge of heaven and earth. (Isa 57:15, 66:1-2)
- The word “hallowed” means “purified, **consecrated**, or separate from the profane.”
- Oh, how unworthy we are to even utter the name of the LORD, much less approach Him in prayer!
- Praise be to Jesus, whose sacrifice and blood has made this possible! (Heb 4:14-16)
- Our LORD’s name is holy! Our Lord Himself is holy! Any true prayer must be offered with this truth very present in our hearts! (Isa 6:1-3)

**Mat 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.**

- Many wonder what “Thy Kingdom come” means. Jesus showing up on earth? The New Jerusalem coming down from heaven? Jesus ruling from Jerusalem as an earthly King? All of these are often discussed. Remember we said the Kingdom is “right now but not yet?” :)
- However, I think the latter half of the verse gives those who want to go beyond exploring the Kingdom to advancing it, a powerful truth: “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”

- At a minimum (with eschatological realities still very possible), the Kingdom “comes” in a sense when God’s people **obey** God and cause others to do the same. The Kingdom of heaven “is in the midst” when you and I hear and obey the words of Jesus, imitate Jesus, preach Jesus, and expectantly wait for the coming of Jesus!
- Whenever and wherever God’s will is joyfully done...wherever there is the presence of Jesus, there is a piece of the Kingdom.

**Mat 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.**

- The praying Kingdom citizen isn’t focusing on worldly excess. To the contrary, the follower of Jesus asks for enough to get through the day. Indeed, Jesus said, *“Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”* **Mat 6:34**
- The Kingdom citizen knows he doesn’t **merit** or deserve ANYTHING further from God. (He already has Christ!) He knows His sinful state and he is overwhelmed with joy to just have a seat in the Kingdom!
- So he humbly asks for just enough of what’s needed for another day in the LORD’s service. How different this is from how we normally think and pray!
- Oh, that we might pray with this sort of **contentment**, peace, and joy! Imagine if life “didn’t exist” beyond today? What would you do? You’d live each day in the fullest joy, holiness, evangelist fervor, and forgiveness!

**Mat 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

- This section of the LORD’s Prayer is a reminder to continually keep our **sins** before God, to examine ourselves.
- Indeed, “debts” here is a metaphor for sin. What do we owe God? We owe a “sin debt.” (Here is a good article on this: <https://carm.org/is-sin-a-legal-debt-to-god>)
- In Luke’s version of the Lord’s Prayer, he writes, “And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.” (Luke 11:4)
- So we are to approach the LORD with penitence in our hearts...godly sorrow for our continual transgressions of His laws.

**Mat 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

- The tempter in Scripture is **Satan** (Matt 4:3; 1 Thes 3:5). Therefore the Kingdom citizen prays that God in His sovereign mercy would not allow Satan to tempt us beyond what we are able (1 Cor 10:13), but will instead “deliver us from the evil one.” (NLT)

- This verse is a few things then:
  - A declaration of the sovereignty of God in prayer, even over devils (Job 1-2)
  - An acknowledgment of man's frailty and weakness
  - A plea for power in spiritual warfare!

APPLICATIONS FOR EDIFICATION (BUILDING UP) AND ENCOURAGEMENT  
(ROM 14:19; EPH 4:9; 1 THES 5:11; JUDE 1:20)

1. Go over this sermon again later today. Really meditate on the model for prayer Jesus has given us.
2. Immediately begin to apply what He taught. As you commune with the LORD and offer petitions for yourself and others:
  - Rejoice in the privilege of knowing God as Father!
  - Think of how to increase your reverence as you approach Him!
  - Consider His holiness and majesty! Be in AWE! :)
  - Pray that you would be a part of the coming of the Kingdom through doing His will!
  - Pray to receive daily bread with joy and contentment!
  - Ask for help against the tempter!
3. **Be transformed! May the LORD bless your times of prayer CRCC! Amen!**