

The Lord's Prayer | Matthew 6:9-13

Sermon-based Bible Study | June 12, 2017

Key Teaching Point: *When the Lord's Prayer is being answered in our lives, we are working for what God wants and trusting Him for what we need.*

Background: Matthew 6:1, 5-8

"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven."

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

Study:

In these verses, Jesus' words "practice your righteousness" mean something like "practice your spiritual habits" or even "live out your faith." Jesus does not warn us against others knowing that we practice spiritual habits or that we live our faith. Jesus' warning is about who we are living out our faith for. He makes the point by warning us not to do these things in front of others in order "to be seen by them." Others may observe our faith through our habits and actions, but they are not to be our audience. God alone is our true audience.

1. What do you think Jesus means when he says "they have received their reward in full?"
2. Why do you think we should pray if God already knows our needs before we ask him?

Matthew 6:9-10: Praying for what God wants

"This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

1. How can we honor God's name as holy and use it appropriately?
2. If God's kingdom was fully present on earth, what would be different?
3. How can we work for God's will in our family life?
4. How can we work for God's will in our school/business/community?

Matthew 6:11-13: Trusting God for what we need

"Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

1. What needs for provision are hard to trust God for?
2. What is hard about forgiveness?

3. What is one practical way to avoid temptation this week?

Practice: Use the Lord's Prayer as a pattern or template for your praying for at least 5 days. Say one of the lines and pray in accordance with what it is concerned with. Then move to the next line, and so forth.

For example: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name..."

Pray: "God, help me to glorify your name in everything I do today. Help me to glorify your name through the quality of my work and through the way I support my family and friends..."

Please answer 5 short multiple-choice questions to help us improve this Bible study:
<https://goo.gl/forms/9tZtzc4gQOZttGG3>