

The Disciple's Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

INTRODUCTION:

- ❑ Many of us, for too long, have been saying our prayers.
- ❑ We often say, "Let us have a little prayer" or a "quick one" and wonder why things do not happen. Little prayers accomplish great things.
- ❑ It is time we stop saying prayers and start praying. Get rid of form with substance. Put your heart into your prayer.
- ❑ Praying the Disciple's Prayer as a road to releasing intercessory prayer and the road to revival.
- ❑ We need to understand the substance as well as the spirit of this prayer.
- ❑ "If anything worthwhile will be done on earth, it will only be done in response to prayer." DJB
- ❑ Prayer is the only hop for us, our families, churches, community, country and world.
- ❑ Intercessory prayer is the heart beat of the Father.
- ❑ O, how we need to ask Jesus to teach us to pray! Cf. Lu 11:1
 - ❑ How to Pray – Method
 - ❑ Whom to pray for -
 - ❑ What to pray for - Requests
 - ❑ Why to pray - Motives

A Proposed Model for Our Prayers and Praying:

Jesus is our model in everything, including praying.

A Model Prayer from Jesus – The Disciple's Prayer – Matt 6: 9-14; Luke 11:1-13

A Sample of Jesus' Prayer – The Lord's Prayer – John 17:1ff (especially vs. 1-5)

EXPOSITION:

A. The Model Prayer: (Matt 6:1-15 esp. vs. 9-14) cf. Luke 11:1-13

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT

The Disciple's Prayer

Two Parts of the Prayer

1. Heaven's Business : vs. 9-10
The Person and Purposes of God

The Person of God:

This has to do with:

- Who He is – His Person – His Character
- What He does – His Plan and Purpose – His Works
- What He says – His Promises – His Word

These are always consistent - in concert with each other

Ours should be the same way also. When they do we will have integrity and show credibility.

The Purposes of God:

This has to do with His purposes for us and the rest of creation:

- Praising Him
- Partnership with Him
- Proclaiming Him

2. Earth's Blessings vs. 12-13

Provision
Pardon
Protection

9 "Pray, then, in this way:

'Our Father who is in heaven,

Our Father = Personal and intimate relationship
Who knew this intimacy more than Jesus cf. John 1:18 – Lit. = “in the bosom of the Father”
Our Father is in heaven (What implications does this have for us?)
What is Heaven?
It is His Home
It is His Throne room
It is His Board-room
It is the place where the decisions that affect earth are made.
Where the business is done – where the prayers are answered first and unfolded on earth.
Where we are heading – Are we sure of this?
Jesus realised that he is going back there to make intercession for us.
Three places God dwells: In heaven, the hearts of his children and collectively among His people.

Prayer and Relationships:

When it comes to approaching God, we can approach Him on one of three bases:

1. As a stranger – As a creature
2. As one of His children – As a child
3. Or as a friend – As a confidant cf. Ex 33:7-23

How do you approach Him?

Hallowed be Your name.

His name:

Represents all He is, has and does:

- His character
- His authority

It is our strong tower, shield, rock and fortress

It is our letter of introduction to the people and powers He sends us to.

10 'Your kingdom come.

His kingdom is where He rules and reigns

Now, He rules in heaven and in the hearts of His people – those who are sold out to Him

Later, He will rule the world from earth, not from Heaven.

There is a subtle difference between ruling and “being in control” – His sovereignty

The Kingdom of God is not synonymous with the Church of Jesus Christ.

The kingdom is bigger than the Church in the same way that the family of God is bigger than my local church or denomination

Is He reigning and ruling in the throne room of your heart? This is what Lordship is all about.

In our hearts is where we win or loose the battle! Victory starts there!

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

His ultimate goal is that His glory will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. (Hab 2:14; Isa 11:9)

How is His will done in heaven?

1. Perfectly
2. Passionately
3. Pleasurably

- He reveals His will to the committed, not to the curious
- His will is to be enjoyed not endures
- His will is something we embrace, not dabble in or flirt with

It is useless to be concerned about His will for others and the world, if my life is not in alignment with His will for me!

11 'Give us this day our daily bread.

Prayer for his Provision.

The request = we need to come to Him daily for all we need to sustain us and make us successful.
His children are to be in more than subsistence and survive mode.
God wants us to succeed in what we do.
Are we doing what He wants us to succeed in?

The implications = we need to come to him daily
Praying every day, not once a week etc., is His idea

12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Prayer for His Pardon:

This encompasses the whole idea of repentance
The whole idea of forgiveness.
How many of us will like God to treat us, the way we treat others?
The little word "as" is important.
The Parable in Matt 18:21-35 is instructive – Read it Study it and Practice it
It will give you some ideas on how to treat others who are in your debt.

13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil (thing or one).

Prayer for Protection:

Protection from Temptation – the mind
Who is the Tempter? Satan
He is the Tempter, the Accuser, the Deceiver, the Destroyer, the Slanderer and the Thief
The petition is - Protection from the Evil One/The Evil Thing (definite article)
The whole idea of protection of our mind and Spiritual Warfare inherent here
In one sweeping statement Jesus covers the Enemy and the Battlefield.
We find our Armour elsewhere cf. Eph 6:10-18

14 For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'

This is not in some of the older manuscripts, but there is a message here for us.

As we seek to:
Honour His name
Further His kingdom and
That His will be done on earth as it is done in heaven,
May we never forget:
Whose Kingdom it
Whose Power it is
Whose Glory we are (should be) seeking
Amen!. So let it be! **LET US DO IT!!**

CONCLUSION: (Application)

- Will you commit to study this prayer for the next week?
- Will you commit to pray this prayer twice daily for the next week?
- Will you commit to pray that there will be a transformation in?
 - Your Life
 - Your Home
 - Your Church

- Your Community
- Your City
- Your Country
- Our World
- Will you commit to fast for one meal and seek God’s face within or for the next month?
- Those who trust on Him are never put to shame – never be disappointed (Ps 71:1)
- Those who wait upon Him will renew their strength. (Isa 40:31Z)
- “Call upon me and I will answer you . . . “(Jer 33:3; Jer 29:12; Job 14:15)
- Up to now, you have not asked nothing, in my name, ask . . .” (Jn 16:24)

A Parallel Portion of Scripture with many other ideas on Prayer

Jesus apparently used this prayer in different settings.

Luke 11:1-13

¶ It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples."

2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say:

'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.

3 'Give us each day our daily bread.

4 'And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."

A Parable on Prayer

5 Then He said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves;

6 for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him';

7 and from inside he answers and says, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.'

8 "I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

The Application of What Jesus Taught:

9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

10 "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.

Here we have a **Model for Intercession = ASK**

A-sking

K-nocking

S-eeking

11 "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he?

12 "Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he?

13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

God grants our requests when it is in line with Scriptures: when it glorifies His name, it is for our ultimate growth and the good of others. When it is according to His will.

B. A Sample of Jesus' Prayer (John 17:1-26):

WHAT JESUS DID cf. Acts 1:1, Jesus always **did** and **taught**.

The Lord's Prayer

Outline:

Jesus Prays for Himself vs. 1-5

Jesus Prays for His Disciples vs. 6-19

Jesus Prays for Us (not-yet-believers) vs. 20-26

His Prayer for Himself vs. 1-5

1 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You,

2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.

3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

4 "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

5 "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

The Posture of Jesus – eyes towards heaven – home sick

- What is your favourite posture in prayer?

The Purpose of Jesus – glorify God

- If we honour God, He will honour us

The Power of Jesus – to give eternal life

- Eternal life is know God and Jesus

The Plan of Jesus to glorify God – finish the work He was given to do

- On the cross what were His final words? It is finish.
- What will be ours? Cf. Paul in 2 Tim 4:4-8 and Stephen Acts 7:59
- Do we long to hear that well done you good and faithful servant?

The Present Position of Jesus – in the Presence of the Father

- When God sends us to do any thing we do not lose whatever position we have/had with Him. That is always safe and secure.
- Jesus is back in heaven and He is praying for you and I without ceasing.

[Here are some notes on the high points on the rest of the prayer:

We need to personally study it diligently and apply it ruthlessly to our lives and situations]

His Prayer for His Disciples vs. 6-19

⁶I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. ¹³I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

- One of the primary purposes of Jesus is to reveal God to us and the world (v. 6)
- We are gifts from God to Jesus
- Note the co-relation between: obedience, accepting God's word and faith. (v. 7)
- Jesus knew who He was, where He came from, why He was here and where He was going. We need to know these things also.
- Jesus was very much aware of the fact that the Father "sent" Him into the world (v. 8). He was on a mission. Over 40 times in John's Gospel Jesus refers to this fact. In this chapter it occurs 6 times.
- Jesus prayed for our protection (v. 12)
- No one, not even Jesus, minimized the fact that Judas betrayed Jesus. Here, Very strong words are used to describe Judas.
- Jesus says that the world has hated and will hate Christians because of the word of God (v.14)
- This is a clear indication and instruction that we should not be surprised when the world does not see "eye to eye" with us and even persecute us.
- Note how many times Jesus said that "we are not of this world". This world is not our home. We are pilgrims passing through to our real homeland – heaven. (v. 16)
- In v. 15, Jesus prayed for our protection from the Evil One. Jesus, Peter and Paul were aware of the potentials and power of the Devil. We disregard and joke about the Enemy to our demise.

Jesus prayed for our sanctification: vs. 17-19

Note two important things in these verses about sanctification:

1. The truth (God's word) sanctifies = makes us clean and pure

2. We need to sanctify ourselves for the sake of those we are called to serve – our families and others.

Sometimes we are our worst enemies and the most hindrances to our causes. If we are better people, we will do better or have better results.

His Prayer for Us (the not-yet-believers) vs. 20-26

²⁰"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. ²⁵"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

- Jesus not only prayed then, for the disciples. He also prayed for us (you and I) = all who would believe. (v. 20)
- He prayed that we might have unity. How it must break His heart to see how His children live down here. We know what it feels like when our children displease us. (v. 21-22)
- Note the inter-relation between God, Jesus and those who believe.
- Jesus said that if we are in Him and the Father, the world will believe in Him. Is it any wonder that the world ridicules and rejects Jesus and ignores and even laughs at us? We need to live in Jesus and in God. This is another way to say be filled with the spirit and live holy lives.
- Unity among Christians is a testimony that God sent Jesus and that He loves us. (v. 23)
- Jesus wants us to be with Him (v. 24). Note the pre-existence of Jesus is also mentioned in this verse.
- We know God through Jesus (v. 25-26)