



Kingdom Come: The Lord's Prayer

MATTHEW 6:5-15 | MARCH 12 & 13, 2016



LEARNING | BEGINNING TO CONNECT WITH THE TOPIC

Introducing this week's topic, Pastor Mike pointed out that people's lives we might think of as exciting (i.e. professional artists, athletes, etc.) are in reality much more ordinary than we might expect. In other words, it is their commitment to mastering the basics that allows them to excel.

When you think of your spiritual life, would you describe it as exciting? What would an exciting life of faith look like and what do you think it will take to get there?



LEARNING | GETTING CLEAR ON WHAT WAS TAUGHT

The Lord's Prayer, perhaps more appropriately deemed, The Disciple's Prayer, gives us a great framework to help shape our conversations with God. Think about the following phrases and share which one or two stand out as areas that you might focus on to enrich your prayer life.

Our Father in Heaven: When you pray, do you regard God as a loving, personal father to you? Better than the best earthly dad, God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.

Hallowed Be your Name: More than just loving, God is perfect. When you pray, do you remember that God is able to meet your needs perfectly, more than you could ask for or imagine? What have you been hesitant to bring to God?

Your kingdom Come, Your Will be Done on Earth as it is in Heaven: This is the overarching theme of our current sermon series—Kingdom Come. Have you considered that God's will for you is always better than your will for yourself? What is it that you really want for yourself? Do you really want God's kingdom to come, or are you satisfied with the status quo in your life?

Give us Today Our Daily Bread: Pastor Mike makes the point that it's easier to do well spiritually when we're doing poorly professionally. It's hard to do well in both. What is your experience with this dichotomy? How can we pursue a healthy prayer commitment in all seasons of life?

Forgive us our Debts as We Forgive our Debtors: This surprising qualification is something to wrestle with. Clearly God does forgive in ways that far surpass our capacity (see 1 John 1:9), but Jesus challenges our commitment to forgive and reinforces it in verses 14-15, immediately following his model prayer. How quick are you to forgive those who offend you? Would you want God to treat you like you treat others in the area of forgiveness?

Lead us Not into Temptation, but Deliver Us from Evil: James 1:13-15 explains where temptations come from—our own desires—and it is clear God aims to deliver us from those snares that trip us up. What areas are consistent temptations in your life, and in what ways could you begin to pray for deliverance?



LOVING | GROWING OUR HEART FOR A LOVING GOD

The Lord's Prayer is an invitation to bring all our lives before a loving, personal father. How does the Lord's Prayer impact the way you think of God? What would it look like for you to take a step of increasing trust and dependence on God in your life?



LIVING | STARTING TO LIVE LIKE JESUS DAILY

What practical steps can you take to make prayer a more meaningful part of your life? What difference would it make?