

**NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**Sermon Lord Teach us to Pray Part 1**

**Topic: Adoration and Request for God**

**First Preached April 18, 1999**

**Revised 11/11/2020**

**Scripture: Matthew 6:5–13 (NKJV)**

Let me ask you a question, how many of you remember starting your school days with a passage of scripture, a prayer and the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag? Those of you that do are telling you age. Over the course of time we memorized the pledge and many of us memorized what we refer to as the 'Lord's Prayer.'

It has been said "familiarity breeds contempt." A bible college professor of mine added to that quote. "Familiarity also breeds complacency." I believe that this prayer has become all too familiar. I hasten to say that none of you feel contempt for it but we may have become complacent with it.

**Focus passage**

**Matthew 6:5–13 (NKJV)** <sup>5</sup> “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. <sup>6</sup> But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup> “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

<sup>9</sup> In this manner, therefore, pray: **Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

“Prayer is the Christians' most powerful weapon and the most underutilized”.

We all can repeat this prayer without much effort, which tends to prove our complacent attitude toward it. I hope that after today you will not only remember what the Lord has to say about this passage, but also allow it to minister to you with new meaning. With the help of God, may we all have a new understanding about this and will strengthen our relationship with God.

The scene of this passage we read in the Gospel of Matthew takes place early in Jesus' ministry. Matthew records the calling of the first disciple in the 4th chapter and this passage is part of the Sermon on the Mount, which begins, in Matthew's 5th chapter. So, if there is any chronological order to the chapters, this is very early in our Lords ministry. The Sermon on the Mount was the first of five great discourses in Matthew, a large part dealing with the contrast between Jesus' ethical teachings and the Jewish legalistic tradition.

Jesus is teaching on many subjects and now gets to the subject of prayer. Jesus tells the disciples how not to pray (Matthew 6:5–8) and then follows up by telling them how to pray. The disciple

mentioned here are much more than the twelve we commonly refer to as disciples. The Bible mentions that there were more than 500 disciples of Jesus.

*Luke 10:1 1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. (NIV)*

This "Lord's Prayer " is recorded in two places in the Bible. The other location in *Luke 11:1- 4*. This is a shorter version of what was recorded in Matthew. This passage opens with saying that it came to pass" meaning to me that a considerable time has passed.

Then one of the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. Now I remember reading that Jesus already gave them an example of a prayer during the Sermon on the Mount. They should have taken notes (smile). I believe that the recording in Luke is a reminder of that which he said in Matthew.

If there is any chronological order in Luke's Gospel, I believe they saw, by now, how important prayer was in the life of Jesus. Because in *Luke 5:16* it record that Jesus often went to a solitary place to pray.

*Luke 5:16 16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. (NIV)*

Early in the recording of Mark's Gospel the disciples went looking for Jesus and found Him praying.

*Mark 1:35-36 35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. 36 Simon and his companions went to look for him, (NIV)*

By now prayer has taken on a significant meaning to them because they saw it in action.

We can talk to our children and others about the power of prayer but if they do not see us practice it, it's meaning and importance is lost.

Isn't it interesting that these men, who we now call saints, had to ask to be taught how to pray? That tells me that there is hope for us. Let's give them credit, they did ask. Many of us never want to pray in public, if we are asked some of us will begin to repeat the "Lord's Prayer".

I have found the Bible to be so rich in content, exciting and a point of strength in my life. This passage is no exception. Let us take a closer look and see what the Holy Spirit has to teach us. May I suggest you not be like the disciples, do take notes.

*QUOTE; "Not taking notes during biblical preaching or teaching is like eating Chinese food, an hour later you are still hungry." It won't stay with you long.*

Our closer look will be from the recording in Matthew since that is the more complete version.

In verse nine Jesus says "**pray in this manner.**"

*man-ner (man'er)*

*Noun*

*1. a. A way or style of doing something.*

*1. b. The way in which something is done or happens.*

Jesus is giving them **a model** to follow. I do not believe he intended us to repeat these exact words every time we pray. This prayer could more correctly be called a “**model prayer of Jesus**”.

**Verse 9b** I want us to notice the opening address, "**Our Father**" Now we could stop and camp right here and preach on just these two words. I want to share with you as much of this passage as time will permit so I will try to touch on the highlights.

In this opening there is **adoration**, "Our Father" is said in an adoring and respectful manner. Jesus did not say, "our big guy upstairs", "or "Supreme Being", or "the man upstairs", neither did he say "our Mother". In our lifetime we have heard that God was dead. If so, I would like to know who buried Him. We have heard that God could be a woman, how could we prove He is male. Well, I think His son should know.

This supports a prayer guideline prayer acronym of A.C.T.S.

**A**doration -Praising God for who He is. Praising Him for His Grace, Mercy and Peace. Praising Him for His Son.

*2 John 3 (NKJV) <sup>3</sup> Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.*

**C**onfession – Acknowledging our sins and sinfulness,

*1 John 1:9 (NKJV) <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**T**hanksgiving – Thanking God with an attitude of gratitude. Thanking Him for all He has done seen and unseen.

*Colossians 4:2 (NKJV) <sup>2</sup> Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;*

**S**upplication (making a request. We often do this first.)

*1 John 5:14–15 (NLT) <sup>14</sup> And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. <sup>15</sup> And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.*

I sometimes practice in my prayers to not ask God for anything. I will admit I fail more often than I succeed. Try it sometime.

These first two words cause many people to become liars. Let me say this, " God is not your Father unless you have received His son as your personal savior." John 1:12

*John 1:12 <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- (NIV)*

There is more to be said here, but to those of us who have accepted Jesus Christ and believe on His name, we can call Him father and even daddy, (abba Father).

**Verse 9b Who art in Heaven** - this is where our Father resides but we know he is also everywhere He is omnipresent. Heaven is where our Father is and our goal is to be with Him in heaven.

We look at the passage and **the first three things requested are FOR God**. I will not have time to go into detail on them all, but here they are:

1. **Verse 9c Hallowed would be Your name**

Hallowed means to make holy, to set apart as holy. This is emphasized in the 3rd commandment.

Before writing the name of God, a scribe must reverently wipe his pen and say, "I am writing the name of God for the holiness of His name."

<http://www.storyofbible.com/meticulous-jewish-scribes.html>

They (a Scribe) must wipe the pen and wash their entire bodies before writing the word "Jehovah," every time they wrote it.

<https://scottmanning.com/content/process-of-copying-the-old-testament-by-jewish-scribes/>

Our translation of the scrolls do use the name Jehovah but replace it with "God". Any reference to Jehovah God must be considered hallowed.

2. **Verse 10a Your kingdom come**

We, as His subject should pray for His kingdom to come. As yet this is not His kingdom. Remember Jesus saying that "my kingdom is not of this world"

*John 18:36 36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place." (NIV)*

I believe that God will allow Satan, the prince of this world, and sin to run its course so that Satan can never say that he did not have enough time or he would have defeated God.

That reminds me of words said by the great Green Bay Packer coach when asked about losing a game he said. "I have never lost a game; the time just ran out".

3. **Verse 10b Your will be done**

We should pray for and in the will of God. Most of our prayers are for what we want and to satisfy our will. How many times have we given up on God because things did not turn out our way? "It is not for God to be on our side, but for us to be on God's side"

Remember, it's **THY** will be done not **MY** will be done.

**3b. Verse 10c On earth as it is in heaven**

For God's will on earth to be done is a great attitude to have in prayer. I smile when I hear one person praying to God for one outcome like for his team to win and another praying for a different outcome for his team to win. The better prayer would be for His will to be done, not my will be done.

Our individual prayer may be different and even in opposition to one another that's why it is better to pray that God's will be done. (see story below; **Sometimes you just can't win!**)

One thing I have learned that eventually God's will, will be done on earth as it is in heaven. I like it when I pray according to His will.

Message Passages: **Matthew 6:5–13**, *Luke 10:1 1, Luke 11:1- 4. Luke 5:16, Mark 1:35-36, 2 John 3, 1 John 1:9, Colossians 4:2, 1 John 5:14–15, John 1:12, John 18:36.*

END

### **Sometimes you just can't win!**

A country preacher decided to skip services one Sunday and head to the hills to do some bear hunting. As he rounded the corner on a perilous twist in the trail, he and a bear collided, sending him and his rifle tumbling down the mountainside. Before he knew it, his rifle went one way and he went the other, landing on a rock, breaking both legs. That was the good news. The bad news was the ferocious bear charging at him from a distance, he couldn't move. "Oh, Lord," the preacher prayed, "I'm so sorry for skipping services today to come out here and hunt. Please forgive me and grant me just one wish...please make a Christian out of that bear that's coming at me. Please, Lord!" That very instant, the bear skidded to a halt, fell to its knees, clasped its paws together and began to pray aloud right at the preacher's feet. "Dear God, bless this food I am about to receive....."

