

The Lord’s Prayer

 *October 19*

**INTRODUCTION:**  In today’s passage we carry on from giving to learn about practicing true righteousness in the form of sincere prayer.

**KEY POINT:** genuineness; God centred-ness

**CHALLENGE:** In one sitting, read the whole sermon often over the coming months.

**A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Eph 6:1–4)

*Treat children like little gods and they’ll turn out to be little devils.* Discuss.

* What is God’s design for the family?
* What authority is the child to defer to? What is the positive outcome if trusted?
* What is the point of the 5th commandment?
* Why is the father and not the mother mentioned?
* What authority is the father beholden to? How are they to treat their children?
* Why do families need the Gospel and what picture is painted when they trust it?

**P.M. SERMON RECAP (WWBWWB: Lord’s Day)**

* Why do Christians gather on the first day? (Acts 20:7)
* Why did John mean by the “Lord’s Day”? (Rev 1:10).
* Why is it a special/divinely appointed day for worship? (Heb 10:25).
* How is it a day of holy recalibration?

**READ:** Mt 6:5–15

**QUESTIONS:**

PRAYING IN SECRET

1. *V. 5a- “when you pray.”* **Why does Jesus expect disciples to pray?**
2. *Public prayer took 2 general forms, a man leading in the synagogue or stopping to pray when the Jerusalem trumpets sounded for the hour of prayer.* **Like giving, how is this hypocritical?**
3. **What two things should characterize prayer? (Jesus prayed in public).**

THE LORD’S MODEL PRAYER

1. *The Lord’s prayer is made up of 6 petitions, however, it is so rich that even this division and these questions will not exhaust this prayer’s majesty and simplicity. The first three deal with God and the last three with us.*
2. **Why should prayer focus on God and before self?**

(Address) “Our Father who art in heaven.”

1. *The OT does speak of God as Father (e.g. Dt 14:1), but in Jesus’ day this was seldom used. He emphasized both respect and warmth.* **What extremes do we deal with in addressing God today?**
2. *Believer’s are adopted into God’s family and thus can say “our Father”* (Jn 1:12). **What about unbelievers?**
3. **What does “in heaven” remind us of?**

 (Petition 1) “Hallowed be thine name.”

1. **Why is His name holy? Why request that His name be considered holy? Why begin here?**

(Petition 2) “Thy kingdom come…”

1. *This could mean His present saving reign or His coming eternal reign.* In either case, what does it show if we pray this?

(Petition 3) “…thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

1. *God’s revealed will.* **Like the above, do we desire this to be true in the world and our lives?**

(Petition 4)“Give us this day our daily bread.”

1. *Workers in Jesus’ day received wages for a day, which bought their food for the day. No work, no food.*
2. **Where do our basic necessities come from? Knowing this, why should we pray this prayer?**
3. *\*This is the approx. centre of the prayer and the sermon.*

**(**Petition 5)“and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”

1. **C.f. vv. 14–15. Rather than a tit for tat, there is no forgiveness for the one who does not forgive because…?**

(Petition 6) “And led us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

1. *James tells us God never tempts anyone, yet in His providence He does lead us into all situations (Ps 23). This may be a prayer for mercy. Yet, there is also something called a litotes, a figure of speech that means the opposite (e.g. “not a few” means “many”; Jn 6:37). If this is the case this is a spiritual parallel to “daily bread” and means “lead us into righteousness.”* **Thoughts?**
2. **Why should we seek spiritual victory over our adversary, the Devil?**

FORGIVENESS

1. *This passage is more an explanation vs. a part of the prayer.* **Interestingly, how does vv. 14–15 contrast vv. 12–13? Why might Jesus have taught/emphasized this?**

**Next Week:** Fasting,Mt 6:16–18