MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY— SESSION 8

SERMON ON THE MOUNT
Homework for Matthew 6:9-15 — The Lord’s Prayer, Part 2
SYS 1/29/25 EWH 2/05/25

REVIEW
In Matthew 6:1-18, Jesus continued to address His disciples-- those knowing God as "Father." He gave guidance regarding the three primary acts of worship in Judaism: giving, prayer, and fasting. His words, "When you give... when you pray... when you fast," show an assumption that His followers were giving, praying, and fasting. But He warned that practicing acts of righteousness must be for God's glory and not their own. *The inner quality of humble sincerity before their Father "who sees in secret" is the heart of the passage*.

OUTLINE THE LORD’S PRAYER (Mat 6:9-15)
 > Pray Like This
 > For God’s Honor (6:9-10)

 > For Our Needs (6:11-15)

READ Matthew 6:9-15

INTRODUCTION (6:8-9) *."Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. Pray then like this...."*

Session 8 returns to the subject of prayer. In Matthew 6:8, Jesus contrasts how His disciples should not pray ("...*Like the hypocrites*," vs. 5-7) and then introduces a pattern for prayer that is appropriate for believers of all ages. It is important to know that the tense of Jesus' words, "Pray then..." indicates that prayer *is a command to be obeyed often and continuously*. Jesus, our great example, leads the way by teaching what our attitudes and concerns should be in our prayers. As He leads, we follow– for that is what a disciple is in the true meaning of that word. Of the six requests, The first 3 concern God's honor (vs. 9-10), and the last three concern our needs (vs. 11-13).

QUESTIONS

1. “*Our Father in heaven, hallowed (holy) be your name*" (6:9). Jesus' prayer begins with a simple yet profound recognition of God's greatness and goodness. Why is this important? and how would making statements like this to the Father in prayer have a lasting impact on your life? What criteria would be necessary for a follower of Christ to address God the Father?

2. *"Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*" (9:10-11). What do the two following petitions prioritize? Do you daily pray this way? If not, how would the focus of your life change if you prayed for these priorities often and continually? How could they aid the believer's fight against his or her natural self-centeredness?

3. "*Give us this day our daily bread*" (v.11). Meditate on this simple verse and write down your thoughts: What would you include in the term "bread"? Who is the source of the gift? What is its timing? Can you give an example of how this prayer has been answered for you?

4. "*Forgive us our debts* [sins]*, as we also have forgiven our debtors* [those who have sinned against us]" (v.12). The word *sin* refers to missing the mark of God's standard of righteousness. Since the Lord's prayer is a believer's prayer, meaning that the believer has already received God's pardon for sin, then this request for forgiveness would be those sins committed *after* initial salvation. What is the remedy for these types of daily sins found in 1 John 1:8-9?

5. "*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."* (v. 13). Meditate on this verse and write down your thoughts. What Scripture comes to mind?

6. "*For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses* (vs. 14-15). Read the following and explain the difference between "judicial forgiveness" and "parental forgiveness."

"These verses give added insight to verse 12. *"This is the Savior's own commentary on our petition to God for forgiveness.... Believers should forgive as those who have received judicial forgiveness (Eph 1:7; 1 John 2:1-2) from God. When the heart is filled with such a forgiving spirit, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Believers cannot know the parental forgiveness, which keeps fellowship with the Lord rich and blessings from the Lord profuse, apart from forgiving others in the heart and word. Forgive means literally 'to hurl away'."* John MacArthur; *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*; *Sermon on the Mount*; pg. 397.

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7. Read the following verses from the Gospel of John and share how they inspire you to follow the example of Christ:

> John 5:19-47

> John 8:42-59

> John 12:25-28

> John 14:6-24

> John 15:10, 16, 23

> John 17 in full