

AFTER THIS MANNER THEREFORE PRAY

MATTHEW 6:9-13; LUKE 11:1-4

Text: Matthew 6:9

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⁹After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Introduction:

Read Luke 11:1-4

Luke 11:1-4

¹And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. ²And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. ³Give us day by day our daily bread. ⁴And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

In this passage, we again find our Lord teaching on prayer. The disciples come to Jesus, as He is praying, desiring to be taught about prayer. Evidently, they had seen something in the prayer life of the Lord that they wanted in their own prayer life.

Their request is revealing.

Their request is two-fold. First, they wanted to know how to pray and talk to God as Jesus Himself did. Secondly, they desired a burden to pray. They saw the priority prayer held in the Lord's life and they desired to be gripped by the same passion for communion with the heavenly Father.

In the words that follow, the Lord gives them the framework for praying that accomplishes both goals. You see, this prayer is not a prayer to be memorized and quoted as many do, but it is a framework around which we are to build our own prayers. It is a pattern, or a template from which we can build the structure of our own prayers. Hence, it teaches us how we should pray.

With those truths in mind, let's consider the first 6 words of this model prayer.

Note the powerful message contained in these 6 words.

1. THESE WORDS SPEAK ABOUT A RELATIONSHIP – OUR FATHER (vs. 9)

Matthew 6:9

⁹After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

God is called “our Father.” What a precious truth! This is the ground upon which we may approach Him with our prayers.

When God made man in His image, Gen. 1:26, God became the Father of the human race in creation.

Genesis 1:26

²⁶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

When man fell into sin, man received a new “father,” John 8:44.

John 8:44

⁴⁴ Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

The only way to be reconciled back to the Father is through Christ and by being born again.

John 3:3

³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:7

⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

When the Lord instructed His men in prayer, He didn't use complicated names, but just "Our Father."

2. THESE WORDS SPEAK ABOUT A REALITY – WHICH ART (VS.9)

Matthew 6:9

⁹After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

The next two words "which art" remind us that we serve a God Who exists and that He is more than a figment of our imagination.

I'm grateful that we serve a God Who "IS."

He is not a God Who was. He is not a God Who will be some day. But, as He told Moses in Exodus 3:14, His name is "I AM that I AM!"

Since God is real, and since He changes not, you and I can approach Him with confidence, resting in His reality.

Because God is real, prayer is real! Because God is real, there is power in prayer.

3. THESE WORDS SPEAK ABOUT A REALIZATION – IN HEAVEN (VS. 9)

Matthew 6:9

⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

When the Bible tells us that our Father dwells “in Heaven,” it is telling us that He occupies a place of honor, glory and power.

Since He is in Heaven, He is above the evils and the problems of this world.

Since He is in Heaven, He is in a position to respond to our petitions.

Since He is in Heaven, He is in a position to be exalted and honored by those who dwell below.

Because of this we should:

A. Enter Into His Presence Humbly

Our Father is God! He made this world. He is holy. He is wonderful.

Therefore, let us learn to approach the throne of grace humbly, remembering what we are and where He found us; remembering that were it not for grace and the blood of Jesus we would have no rights there at all.

B. Enter Into His Presence Worshipfully

When we approach the Lord in prayer, we need to remember to Whom we are speaking. He is God.

C. Enter Into His Presence Hopefully

What I mean is this: our Father is already in our heavenly home and He awaits our appearance there. Therefore, when we pray, we are merely turning our attention toward home.

4. THESE WORDS SPEAK ABOUT A RESPONSIBILITY – OUR FATHER (VS. 9)

You will notice that God is called “our Father.” He is not just “my Father” or “your Father”, but He is “our Father.” This reminds us that when we pray we have a responsibility to pray as part of a family.

We have the duty before the Lord to pray one for another. We are to carry one another’s burdens to the throne of grace.

Galatians 6:2

²Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Philippians 2:4

⁴Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

I must remember, as part of a family, that I have no right to pray for things that are selfish in nature. I must remember to structure my prayers so that they reflect that which is best for the whole family of God, not just what I think is best for me.

For instance, when there is a situation at church that needs prayer, I should not ask God to work things out the way I want them worked out. I should pray that God will do that which is best for His family and for His glory.