

Feb 16, 2020



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Kingdom-Seeking Prayer Matthew 6:9-15

Lesson Background and Introduction

Every aspiring artist studies the masters: Raphael and Rembrandt and Michelangelo. Every aspiring composer studies the masters: Beethoven and Brahms, Haydn and Handel. The Twelve noticed that there was something in the prayers of Jesus that they lacked. His prayers had more depth and breadth, and they wanted to pray like that. They were no strangers to prayer. They had prayed all their lives, but they saw in His prayers qualities that theirs did not have. So they said, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). In response to that request, He gave them a model by which they could form their own prayers. Is it wrong, then, to recite this prayer? Of course not. It is never wrong to quote Scripture. But the intent of Jesus was that they should learn from this to word their own prayers. The artist may start out copying some great work of art, but eventually composes his own painting. The composer studies closely the music of the masters, not in order to copy them, but that their work may inform, guide, and inspire her own composition. So, in public and in private, we compose our own prayers, using this model as a guide and as inspiration. We pray remembering that we are children talking to our Father. We want our prayers to be the best that they can be, but we know that the Father accepts our poorest prayer efforts. He does not receive our prayers because of their eloquence, their nicety of expression, or their poetic qualities. He accepts them because He loves His children.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

The Model Prayer - Jesus' disciples asked the Master to teach them to pray. He responded by giving them a pattern to follow. This model can be used to help us know how to communicate with the almighty God.

Our Father in Heaven - We start praying by addressing God in this way: it demonstrates a tender, loving relationship between God and His children. At the same time, "in heaven" speaks of where God resides and His supreme sovereignty.

Hallowed Be Your Name - The second part of the prayer is a declaration of God's holiness. He ought to be worshiped as a holy God, distinct and set apart, with His name honored.

Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done - We then pray for God's plan and desires to be accomplished, to be manifest on the earth, not our own selfish desires. Heaven on earth would be His will always being done by all people.

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread - Everything we receive comes from God. We should acknowledge that fact and at the same time request that He meet all our needs.

Forgive Us Our Debts, as We Forgive Our Debtors - We owe the Lord a huge debt; we are debtors. God freely offers forgiveness in Christ. This act of mercy ought to so touch hearts that we then forgive those who have offended us.

Lead Us Not into Temptation but Deliver Us from Evil - We plead for protection from the attacks of Satan, the world, and our own flesh—the evil desires of our heart.

Kingdom Business - This prayer addressed a concept Jesus often taught: the Kingdom, or God's reign. To be a part of God's kingdom it's necessary to accept the Good News about Jesus. Accepting His truth allows fragile, sinful man to become a part of God's holy family and a resident of His kingdom.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
God hears us when we pray

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Father God, the way You hear and answer my prayers amazes me. Strengthen my faith, that I will always believe in Your goodness and love

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

So the children of Israel said to Samuel, Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines

(1 Sam 7:8 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Jan 16, 2018)

Series: Honoring God

UNIT: Jesus Teaches About True Worship

NEXT WEEK

Ever-Persevering Petitions
(Luke 11:5-13)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

The Pattern For Prayer (Matt 6:9-15)

Prayer should include praise and submission (9-10)

- Praise God for His righteousness (Ps 7:17)
- Praise God for His counsel (Psalms 16:7)
- Praise God because He answers prayers for mercy (Ps 28:6)
- Praise God because of His greatness and worthiness (Ps 48:1)
- Praise God because it is good to do so (Ps 92:1)
- Praise God for all His benefits (Ps 103:2)
- Praise God for His acts of power (Ps 150:2)
- Submit to God to receive eternal life (Heb 12:9)
- Submit to God as part of resisting the devil (James 4:7)

Prayer should include petition and confession (11-12)

- Petition God because He promises fulfillment (Matthew 7:7)
- We can petition God if we remain in Him (John 15:7)
- Petition God for wisdom (James 1:5)
- Confession that Jesus is Lord is part of our salvation (Rom 10:9)
- There is a promise of forgiveness associated with confession (1 John 1:9)

Prayer should include thanksgiving for God's protection and forgiveness (13-15)

- Protection through the power of God (John 17:11)
- Protection from Satan (John 17:15)
- Protection through the faithfulness of Jesus (2 Thess 3:3)
- Protection upon which we can set our hope (2 Cor 1:10)
- It is a blessing to be forgiven (Rom 4:7-8)
- We are to forgive others as God has forgiven us (Col 3:13)
- Forgiveness through the grace of God (Eph 1:7)
- Forgiveness through the shedding of Jesus' blood (Heb 9:22)