

Praying As Jesus Prayed

Lecture 4 in the course **Praying To Get Results**

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The Prayer Life of Jesus

- Was authoritative and full of faith
- Was constant and regular and habitual
- Was biblical in its content
- Was based around deep understanding of the nature, character, will and purposes of God
- Was highly personal and had great intimacy with God
- Was based on a clear vision of the desired end result/s
- Expected the participation of the spiritual universe and the Kingdom of God in daily life here on earth.
- Was without doubts or limits and saw all things as being possible with God. (Matthew 17:20, 19:26 Lk 1:37, 18:27)

The Lord's Prayer

- **Matthew 6:9-13 (HCSB)**

9 "Therefore, you should pray like this:
Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy.
10 Your kingdom come.
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
11 Give us today our daily bread.
12 And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And do not bring us into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

Characteristics of the Lord's Prayer

- Brief, meaningful and to the point
- Contains a lot about our relationship with God and with one another.
- Starts with God and ends with God.
- Is framed in terms of GODS PROGRAM rather than just telling about our needs and desires.
- Imperative, that is it is full of commands
- Is an out line prayer where the petitioner "fills in the blanks" with specific requests for provision, forgiveness, deliverance etc.
- Is vast in scope!

Our Father

- Jesus tells the disciples to use a very informal Name for God – “Abba”, Daddy, the nomenclature of a child....
- Child-like Faith vs. Pompous Religion
- Mark 14:36, Romans 8:14-17, Galatians 4:3-7
- The opposite of a spirit of fear
- The introduction of a Spirit of Sonship
- Led by the Spirit, Spirit to spirit witness
- Sons, heirs, adopted, no longer religious slaves
- No longer under the “stoichea”, elements of religion
- No longer under the Law
- Can express our heart needs to God

In Heaven

- We can directly talk to Heaven without the need of any mediator either angelic or human. (You don't need Mary)
- We enter into the heavenly realms where we are seated in heavenly places with Christ (Ephesians 2:6)
- We can boldly and confidently approach the throne of grace in time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16)
- Our prayer life is heavenly and spiritual not earthly and mechanical.
- We are to enter into Heaven by faith when we pray
- Our spiritual eyes are to be turned towards Heaven and toward eternity when we pray.

Hallowed Be Thy Name

- Hallowed = Revered = Held Sacred = Treated as Holy
- Prayer is a reverent and sacred act that recognizes the great holiness of God
- It is entering into the sacred and holy part of the spiritual world, the part governed by God's Holy Name
- It is not just casually messing around with spiritual things nor is it paganism or magic
- It involves an invocation of the awesome and personal presence of God.
- Prayer is “upward” and involves our higher nature and our sense of the sacred, the heavenly and the holy.

Thy Kingdom Come

- Kingdom = a realm where the laws of a King are in effect and which is governed by His principles and order and has His culture, language/s and way of living and which His heirs can inherit.
- **Matthew 25:34** *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*
- The Kingdom needs to “come” – it is not here yet, but it is arriving and is “at hand” through faith. Go to “all nations..”
- We are praying for the manifestation of divine authority, order and power and for our inheritance in God.
- We are to seek first the kingdom (Matthew 6:33)
- Its arrival is generally accompanied by signs and wonders and God's gracious healing order takes over
Matthew 4:23-25, 9:35, 10:7,8; 12:28

Thy Will Be Done

- God's will is not automatic but needs to be prayed into existence if it is to arrive in our lives, communities etc.
- God's Will Is Done = A Heavenly Action – which means it is something that is performed by heavenly agency and is not merely a legalistic concept that is discovered by us then performed by us.
- God's will can be performed through us without our knowledge and even with our opposition e.g. the Cross (Acts 4:27,28)
- However our prayers are somehow vital in seeing God's will done here on earth (see previous lecture)
- We pray for God's will not our will and for God's Kingdom not our own kingdom! (Gethsemane)

On Earth As In Heaven

- God's will is done perfectly and lovingly and with awesome holiness and purity in Heaven and that is the way it should be done here on earth.
- Correspondence between Heaven and Earth, Heaven is meant to govern Earth, they are meant to be interconnected. "As the waters cover the sea.."
- Heavenly types, earthly outworking of heavenly patterns e.g. for the Temple.
- Bound and loosed - as on earth so in heaven (Mt 16:19, 18:18)
- Heaven will come to Earth and God will dwell with men in the New Jerusalem.
- We are praying for the conditions of Heaven to invade Earth – no more sickness, sorrow, crying, pain, sin, etc.

Give Us This Day

- Immediacy – today, not ten years hence
- A daily prayer for daily needs, continuous prayer...
- Continuous daily provision out of deep relationship
- A Father's provision, knowing what we need each day
- Provision tailored for that day, need, hour, season, person and situation.
- Give – not earned, God's provision is by grace though it also may involve us having a job.
- We live by God's gifts, not by our own strenuous efforts

Our Daily Bread

- The basic provision and 'staple food' that we need for life and godliness. Food, water, shelter, hope, love, relationships, the Word of God etc.
- The basic security we require before we can venture forth and do anything else.
- This is not automatic and sometimes can involve a huge spiritual battle especially in places where demonic poverty, cruelty and oppression seem to rule to deprive, steal, kill and destroy whole populations.
- "Our" we pray as a family or community for provision for that family or community, provision comes from God and via relationships.

And Forgive Us Our Debts

- Forgive = let go, release us from, do not punish us for
- Debts = what we owe God and reasonably owe others
Debts of love, debts of gratitude, financial debts, debts to the Law, failures to pay or perform oaths and vows, low levels of faith in God, sins, transgressions and iniquities, debts of unfulfilled personal obligations, debts of inadequate performance, debts of failed life expectations, relational debts as a parent or child or spouse.
- Total release and forgiveness from all the condemnation and any sense of failure and inadequacy that we may have. Total release from all the accumulated toxic junk in our lives. Total release from accusing memories.

As We Forgive Our Debtors

- We are to similarly release others
- Parable of the Unforgiving Servant in Matthew 18:21ff
- With the measure we use it will be measured back unto us (Luke 6:38) so remove the beam from our own eye
- Look at people as they are in Christ, not as they are under the Law or are by our social or personal standards.
- It is not about what you “ought to be” but about what you and others “can be” in Christ, by grace, through faith.
- Drop all grudges, resentments, hardness of heart in prayer
- We have to forgive but we do not have to trust someone especially if they have proven to be violent dishonest or toxic in some way. You can forgive the Nazis but you should not trust the Nazis!

Lead Us Not Into Temptation

- Temptation (in this verse) = circumstances so harsh they could cause us to sin or deny God e.g. severe financial shortage that might make it overwhelmingly difficult to earn an honest living.
- Just as God took the Israelites through the desert so they would not have to “face war” early on in their faith because they were not ready.
- Don't put us on a path that is too tough for us to handle.
- Suffering is not always enlightening, it can create the opposite of good e.g. bitterness, rage, hopelessness and so on. We are to ask God to keep us out of those sufferings which would make us less like Christ!
- Also pray to avoid temptation (such as sexual temptation) and for god to lead you to places that are pure, holy, good etc however this is a secondary meaning.

But Deliver Us from Evil

- Evil also Evil One... “the evil..”
- Evil as injustice
- Evil as misfortune in life
- Evil as Satanic activity and spiritual warfare
- Evil as evil “times” such as famine, warfare, plagues....
- Evil as indwelling evil within us
- We are temples but the temple can become defiled as Solomon's temple ended up with idols all through it, yet YHWH was still in place in the Holy of Holies.
- Evil attitudes, moods and spiritual entities can indwell Christians and we need to be delivered from them.
- Prayer for Spiritual Cleansing...

For Thine Is The Kingdom

- God is in charge, is in control and owns everything
- A recognition of God's sovereignty in our affairs
- The kingdom is not ours, we are the subjects, not the King and our life is to be God-centered not self-centered.
- The Throne as the central reality of the spiritual realms
- A turning from the negativity of evil to the positive note of recognizing God's control over all things, evil does not have the final say
- End prayers with praise, thanksgiving etc.
- Cultivate a positive expectation of the future!

The Power And The Glory

- Much sin comes from pursuing our own power and glory – particularly religious sins.
- All true human power and glory is nothing more than a temporarily delegated gift from God. A stewardship for which we will one day give account.
- Recognizing that all power and glory belongs to God is a very, very healthy spiritual practice.
- Worship helps the creature to remember the Creator and be in a right spiritual position and attitude to receive good things from God.

Forever

- Literally “for the ages”
- Heavenly time is split into a number of ages or eons that designate the way things are in the Spiritual realms.
- The present age is “the present evil age”
- Then comes “the time of restoration” (Millennium)
- Then the ‘age to come” where eternal life reigns supreme and we have a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
- God's authority does not change even though the spiritual age may change.
- Nothing to do with astrological ages but in fact refutes them.

Amen

- I agree, it is true, therefore let it be so...
- Is an affirmation of the prayer, Scripture or prophecy
- Agreement with the truthfulness of God God.
- Related to the Hebrew word for truth (emeth)
- We are to pray things through until we sense that we have come into deep agreement with God.

Jesus Listened to God

- The Pharisees listened to each other and to their interpretations of the Law and to the approval of men.
- The Sadducees listened to rituals, social status / elitism, political calculations and to philosophical reasoning.
- The Essenes / Zealots etc tended to listen to their religious feelings, nationalism and to portents of doom.
- Jesus listened to the Heavenly Voice of His Father and to Scripture revealed by the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus dwelt in continual Spirit to spirit communication so that He and the Father were one.
- Jesus subsumed His will to the Father's will and did nothing except what He saw or heard the Father doing. (John 5:30, 8:26, 28, 40)
- When Jesus prayed it was out of a relationship with God that heard God accurately.

The Heavenly Voice vs The Religious Voice

James 3:10-18. | Timothy 4:1-8, Colossians 2, Galatians 5:1-11

- **The Heavenly Voice:** is light, meek, lowly, freeing, wise, reasonable, loving and gentle, healing and full of good fruits, relational, kind, peaceful, rarely if ever in a hurry, restful, encouraging, personal, dwells in community, calling, revealing, drawing, enlightening, open, accepting, full of faith.
- **The Religious Voice:** is dark, demanding, immediate, impulsive, judging, "ought, should, must, have to", "you will finally become good if you do X...", condemning, enslaving, threatening, ritualistic, works, results, very driven, accountability, numbers, extremes, anxious for approval, priestly, pompous, hateful, cruel, impersonal, system over person, contentious, self-important, depraved, heartless, anti-marriage, hateful to the body, very particular about matters of dress, food and drink, exclusive, and isolating.

Objectives...

- **Heavenly Voice:** To create sons/ daughters of God with heavenly lives, repentance, faith, grace, love, freedom, sanity, wholeness, holiness, goodness of heart, generosity, mercy, honest and above board living, abundance, joy, hope, friendships, families, life to the full, glad enjoyment of God's Creation. (John 10:10 etc)
- **Religious Voice:** To create sons of the devil with hellish lives, enslaved to religious works, to create angry, hateful, hypocritical people riddled with anxiety, going to religious extremes, destroying families, health and finances in the name of religious approval, full of folly, madness and eccentricity and eventually taking away their sanity entirely, making them suicidal and depressed and feeling total failures or even getting them to kill others. (Matthew 23)

The Spirit of Fear – Romans 7

- If the pastor doesn't approve of me then I'm no good...
- If I don't read my Bible I've wasted my whole day
- I've got to be a missionary or I won't have any eternal reward, even though my health is not good...
- I'm not praying right, I know I'm not praying right, God must really hate me, I must get up two hours earlier
- If I don't lead my family to Christ then I have failed
- My thoughts are always evil, I'm evil, I'm no good...
- I have to give a lot more money to the Church or I will be under a curse and never prosper
- I have to buy those tapes, CDs and books otherwise I won't get the blessing the preacher promised...
- My body is just disgusting, I hate myself...
- I need to find another program to help me change into a better person so I can feel good about myself at last....

The Spirit of Love and Grace – Romans 8

- Abba , Father!
- The love of God is being poured out in my heart...
- God is delighted in me just as I am and is doing a good work in me and is filling me with heavenly things
- I am changing so fast and I don't know how its happening, but it is really good
- I am blessed and I never earned it!
- Its OK to just be normal
- I can happily worship God outdoors
- I can eat and drink whatever I like because Jesus declared all foods clean, as long as I respect others
- My body is a sacred thing, a temple of the Holy Spirit
- I don't need programs but boy do I need relationships!

Death-Trap Questions....

- What is my ministry? Will God ever give me a ministry?
- How can I do more for God? Am I doing enough?
- Am I being good today? Is God pleased with me today?
- Will God ever use me? I need to be used by God!
- Should I be double-tithing?
- What extreme thing can I do in order to prove that I love God? How can I show / prove to others that I am spiritual?
- What voluntary suffering can I undergo for God?
- How can I please the pastor?
- How can I get the approval of the denominational officials?
- Will God hate me if I listen to “worldly music”?
- Is it ever OK to not think about religion for a bit?

Life-Giving Questions

- Who am I in Christ?
- What has God done for me in Christ?
- What blessing is God going to freely give me today?
- How can I freely receive more of God's love by grace?
- How can I know Jesus better?
- How can I be filled with the Spirit?
- Where is the Living Water that I may drink of it freely?
- How can I rest and abide in Christ and find His peace?
- How can I forgive others and release God's love from my heart so that I am blessed to be a blessing?
- What sort of gift and blessing am I to others?

Farewell To Religion!

- Jesus never told anyone to go to a special holy place to pray or told them to pray in a certain posture using special holy vocabulary.
- Jesus never used incense, icons, or other religious paraphernalia (partly since He was not a priest.).
- Jesus prayed in deserted places, on mountains, outdoors, with friends, in Upper Rooms, in the houses of the sick, and while walking along and in other NORMAL contexts. He prayed to the Creator God in the normal places and rhythms of normal creaturely human life.
- Jesus taught in the synagogues and in the Temple but did not see them as central or essential to His personal prayer life. He was independent of religious structures!
- Jesus harshly criticized long-winded religious prayers, pagan prayers, and hypocritical praying for show and all other elements common to religious practice today!

Fundamentalist Prayer Is Satanic

- Fundamentalist prayer – like that of the Pharisees in Luke 18:10ff and Matt 23 merely produces sons of the Devil.
- Not all prayer is good prayer, some is dark and evil.
- Some prayer proceeds out of the violent miry places of the human consciousness and is full of rage, guilt and condemnation or spiritual manipulation of God or others in the audience, or is concerned with self-justification or with religious performance.
- Sometimes it creates such dread and awe that people feel cursed and end up creating monstrous views of God “If I am naughty God will kill my Teddy Bear.”.. In worst-case scenarios these can become self-fulfilling prophecies of doom (Numbers 5)

Jesus Never Prayed For...

- His disciples to have the book of Job memorized in Hebrew by the end of the week
- His followers to double-tithe or triple-tithe or do any extreme work of religious sacrifice
- Good positions in the Temple system and the approval of the High Priests for his apostles
- His disciples to be able to call down fire from heaven on the heads of heretics and blasphemers
- The building of tabernacles or basilicas at sacred sites all around Jerusalem in His honor
- The disciples to have any form of political dominion or earthly glory

John 17: 1-3 - His Mission

- **John 17:1-3 (HCSB)** Jesus spoke these things, looked up to heaven, and said: Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son so that the Son may glorify You,
- for You gave Him authority over all flesh; so He may give eternal life to all You have given Him.
- This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and the One You have sent — Jesus Christ.

John 17:4-6 Glory

- **John 17:4-6** I have glorified You on the earth by completing the work You gave Me to do.
- Now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with that glory I had with You before the world existed.
- I have revealed Your name to the men You gave Me from the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

John 17:7-8 - True Faith

- **John 17:7-8 (HCSB)**
- Now they know that all things You have given to Me are from You, because the words that You gave Me, I have given them. They have received them and have known for certain that I came from You. They have believed that You sent Me.

John 17:9-12 - Protection I

- **John 17:9-12 (HCSB)** I pray for them. I am not praying for the world but for those You have given Me, because they are Yours.
- Everything I have is Yours, and everything You have is Mine, and I have been glorified in them.
- I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them by Your name that You have given Me, so that they may be one as We are one.
- While I was with them, I was protecting them by Your name that You have given Me. I guarded them and not one of them is lost, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture may be fulfilled.

John 17:13-16 – Protection 2

- **John 17:13-16 (HCSB)** Now I am coming to You, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have My joy completed in them.
- I have given them Your word. The world hated them because they are not of the world, as I am not of the world.
- I am not praying that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one.
- They are not of the world, as I am not of the world.

John 17:17-19 - Sanctification

- **John 17:17-19 (HCSB)**
- Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.
- As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.
- I sanctify Myself for them, so they also may be sanctified by the truth.

John 17:17-23: For The Church

- **John 17:20-23 (HCSB)**
- I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in Me through their message.
- May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be one in Us, so the world may believe You sent Me.
- I have given them the glory You have given Me. May they be one as We are one.
- I am in them and You are in Me. May they be made completely one, so the world may know You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me.

John 17:24-26 – Eternal Love

- **John 17:24-26 (HCSB)**
- Father, I desire those You have given Me to be with Me where I am. Then they will see My glory, which You have given Me because You loved Me before the world's foundation.
- Righteous Father! The world has not known You. However, I have known You, and these have known that You sent Me.
- I made Your name known to them and will make it known, so the love You have loved Me with may be in them and I may be in them.

A Kingdom-Minded Prayer Life

- Praying for God's Name, God's Kingdom, God's will and God's mission in the world
- Praying through the centuries for the unfolding of a great Divine Plan
- Praying for high moral qualities such as sanctification and truth
- Praying for the growth and the spiritual protection of believers.
- Praying out of deep relationship for deep relationships
- Powerful prayer ends up filling us with God's love

Drawing Prayer....

- Prayer draws us to God, to love and to intimacy
- Prayer like any love relationship also draws the best out of us! We find ourselves being better and we want to change!
- Prayer activates our higher heavenly calling and we are mysteriously changed by long hours in prayer
- We don't require long hours in prayer to get basic petitions answered but we do require long hours in prayer to draw our souls to God and to get us into God and to draw the best out of us so that we glow with the glory of the Lord.
- **2 Corinthians 3:17-18** *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.*