

Last week we began to look at the principles Jesus gave us regarding prayer in the Model Prayer (Disciple's Prayer). We saw how our prayers should be relational. We should approach God as a loving Father. But we also looked at our prayer need to be reverential. While we come to God as we would a loving Father, we must also remember that we are addressing the King of all creation who is sovereign, majestic, and perfectly righteous. Then we talked about how we need to have the right priorities when going before God. Our prayers should seek and reflect his will rather than simply our wants. Finally, we discussed how our prayers should be an expression of our reliance and belief in the Lord for our daily needs.

This week, we pick up where we left off. The final two principles are also daily needs and that reality can't go unnoticed or unappreciated. These final principles address our wrongdoing, our refusal to forgive, and the rigors of the Christian life.

Scripture: Matthew 6:12-15

I. Principles of Righteous Prayer II

A. **Reckoning with Conclusion**

1. The second part of verse 13
 - a) Not found in the oldest manuscripts
 - b) Not "unbiblical"
 - c) Not an issue

B. **Righteous Principles**

1. Repentance & Confession
 - a) Forgive us our debts
 - (1) "debts" = moral or spiritual debts
 - b) Repeated daily
 - (1) Foot washing as a picture
 - (a) John 13:5-11
 - (2) Forgiveness promised
 - (a) 1 John 1:9
 - c) Requirement
 - (1) As we also forgive our debtors
 - (a) Conditional clause
 - (2) Expanded upon in 14-15
 - (a) Unforgiveness on our part hinders our receipt of God's forgiveness and invites judgment
 - (i) Matt. 18:21-35
 - (a) We forgive much because we have been forgiven much
 - (b) We love unconditionally because we are unconditionally loved

- (c) We show mercy because we have been shown mercy
 - (d) We give grace because we have received grace
2. Request for Spiritual Protection
- a) Bring us not into temptation
 - (1) The Lord does not tempt, he tests.
 - (a) James 1:13
 - (2) Let Scripture interpret Scripture
 - (a) Matt. 26:41
 - (b) 1 Cor. 10:13
 - (c) 2 Peter 2:9
 - b) Deliver us from the evil one
 - (1) Satan does not test, he tempts.
 - (a) 2 Thess. 3:3
 - (b) 2 Tim. 4:18

As we continue to learn and grow in our prayer lives we need to make sure that we are implementing the principles that God has taught us through his word to prayers. We must add to what we learned last week, what we have learned this week. So, on top of being relational, reverential, having the right priorities, and practicing reliance, our prayers should contain true repentance and confession and requests for spiritual protection.

We should also ensure that we are real with God. There is no deceiving him. As I was preparing these sermons, the Lord led me to rewrite the Model Prayer to reflect our all too often approach and attitude towards prayer. It expresses what our actions are saying rather than our lips. More importantly it reveals our true heart.

It goes like this.

Hey Big Guy Upstairs,

Flippantly and irreverently do I use your name

Your kingdom can come after I've done all the things I want and as long as it
requires little to nothing of me

Do my will, give me what I want when I want it

Give me an abundance so I can have all I desire without worrying or having
to rely on you

IF I have sinned, it was a small sin, not like murder or something big, so
forgive me

However, don't ask or expect me to forgive even the slightest of offenses
I can handle temptation without your help

Deliver me from big evil, like terrorism, the other political party,
life-threatening illnesses, or some other great tragedy. But I've got the
small stuff.

This is my life, I'll do it my way for my pleasure and my glory. You just
answer when called.

See ya