A Prayer for Disciples February 2, 2020

*Matthew 6:9-13 Series: Seeking the Face of God*

We use prayer as a boatman uses a boat hook: to pull the boat to the shore and not to try to pull the shore to the boat. – Ralph W. Sockman

Intro: Where can I learn how to pray?

1. Prayer is about me pursuing God’s agenda not Him pursuing mine.
2. God’s prayer agenda begins with Him not me.

v. 9 *Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven …”*

John 1:12 *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God …*

1. God’s prayer agenda is for His reputation.

v. 9 *hallowed be your name*

Isaiah 29:23 *… they will sanctify my name; they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.*

1. God’s prayer agenda is for His will.

v. 10 *Your kingdom come …*

v. 10 *your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*

* What’s wrong with prayer that’s always about “me” and never about “Him?”
* What does it mean to pray, “hallowed be your name?” How do we pray that other than just repeating those words?
* What kinds of requests would we make if we prayed seriously about God’s will being done?

1. Prayer is more about today’s needs than tomorrow’s wants.
2. We trust God for tomorrow when we just ask Him for today.

v. 11 *Give us this day our daily bread …*

Exodus 16:4 *Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not.”*

Matthew 6:34 *Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

1. We trust God when we pray about our physical needs.

v. 11 *Give us this day our daily bread …*

Proverbs 30:8-9 *Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the LORD?” or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.*

1. We trust God when we pray about our spiritual needs.

v. 12 *forgive us our debts*

v. 13 *lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*

Matthew 26:41 *Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

* How does prayer help us to discern our needs from our wants?
* Why do we often pray more about our physical needs than our spiritual needs?
* What kinds of requests would we make of God if we prayed about our spiritual debts and temptations? i.e. What does a “forgive us our debts … lead us not into temptation” prayer look like?

1. Prayer is about giving grace the way we’ve received it.
2. Forgiven people forgive.

v. 12 *forgive us our debts … we also have forgiven our debtors*

1. People extend grace to others to the extent that they’ve acknowledged God’s grace in their own lives.

v. 12 *forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors*

Luke 7:47 *Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.*

1. Forgiven people pray about WE not ME.

v. 9 *Our Father*

v. 11 *our daily bread*

v. 12 *our debts*

v. 12 *our debtors*

v. 13 *lead us not … deliver us*

1 John 5:1 *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.*

* Jesus seems to be teaching that it’s inappropriate for an unforgiving person to keep expecting forgiveness of God. Why?
* What are some ways that you’ve tried to pray as much about others as you pray about yourself?
* In pairs, pray through the Lord’s Prayer, alternating each line as you personalize the requests.

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Luke 11:5-13.

Notes