

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6: 9-14

Summer Sermon Series 2020

Living Word Lutheran Church

Week One: You've Got a Father – a *Dear* Father!

There are two foci of the intro to The Lord's Prayer: Who God is and where God is. *Really good news*: Jesus could have referred to God His Father in any number of lofty titles that the Bible uses (Almighty God, Creator, Ruler of the Universe, etc.). But instead, we are introduced to a God who loves us as a perfect Father who wants to be close to us – *very close to us*. As a matter of fact, the form of the word "Father" Jesus uses is almost like "Daddy" or "Papa" in the language of the day. He is our DEAR Father. More importantly, He is the waiting Father of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, and He simply wants all "His kids" home, safe and forgiven.

So where can we find this Father? In some far away Heaven? NO, St Augustine and many other Biblical scholars suggest a better translation to be Kingdom. In other words, God is our Dear Father who lives in His Kingdom –IN US! The scriptures teach us this is where God wants to make His home and reign – in our hearts!

Your assignment this first week was to daily pray only one of the petitions of The Lord's Prayer daily so you can meditate on it. Do it several times a day.

Week Two: His Name, His Kingdom, His Will, His Provision

Intro: 1) Why do we pray? Why did disciples ask to learn to pray instead of power to resurrect/feed, etc.? We pray because we are weak. We think we're strong so we only turn to God in prayer occasionally. No, GOD is strong! **2)** NOT a last resort "Well, I called all my contacts, got good doctors, medicine, etc. guess now "all I can do is JUST pray"?! Prayer should be a FIRST, not last resort.

His Name ("Holy be Your Name"):

DON'T MESS WITH GOD'S NAME, OR ABUSE IT – note the Second Commandment--this includes spiritual things and terminology that belong in God's realm. GOD decides who is damned and isn't. GOD conquered Hell for you, DON'T USE PROFANITY. PERIOD.

Instead, understand the POWER of learning to use God's name. Specifically, the power of PRAISE – that key that "opens doors" in our lives!

His name says it all, We dare not abuse the name of the Almighty -- "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain"!! It's really important to use His name in love/respect because THAT'S what WE need –His name unlocks His power/help.

His Kingdom ("Thy Kingdom Come")

Bring His holiness into your heart. The holiness of His name, creates His Kingdom in us –remember St. Augustine's concept of where God's Kingdom is?

Just think of cool it is to live in God's Kingdom, in and around you daily – protection, security, peace. Give God free reign, HIS reign, in every corner of your life.

Jesus never told anybody—neither His disciples nor us—to pray, "Hey God --get me out of here so I can go up there!" His prayer was, make "up there", His Kingdom, come "down here" -- it's also God's invitation to join Him in making things "down here the way they are up there". Get busy!

We're here for a divine purpose. Ask God to show you how you can be part of His "program".

What about "The End Times"? Let God worry about that. Live your daily life in God's Kingdom IN YOU!

His Will ("May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven")

Learning to live in God's kingdom means learning to submit to His will. Let Him train you to His way of thinking, His priorities, so when we pray ASKING, we are praying for what He wants! It's not about asking; it's about letting Him teach us His will for our lives.

Be careful what you ask for!! Remember the joke about the 60-year-old guy who instantly became 90 years old? :)

His Provision (Give us this day our daily bread")

This is why these petitions hang together – Asking Him for daily bread is an extension of learning to simply accept what He gives NOT what WE want

Luther would say: Learn to GIVE THANKS! God sees to our daily needs anyway; we need to learn to live in His provision.

Your assignment for this week, pray/think/meditate on ONE of the above concepts every day.

As this sermon series progresses, we will be seeing that this is not only Jesus teaching us *how to pray*, but just as importantly its learning *how to LIVE!!*