

Bible Study Series - The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

9 "Pray, then, in this way:

'Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come.
Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

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

13 And do not lead us into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

[For Yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.]"

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|----------|---------------------------------|
| April 5 | Who is in Heaven |
| April 12 | Our Father |
| April 19 | Hallowed be Your Name |
| April 26 | Your kingdom come |
| May 3 | Your will be done |
| May 10 | Give us this day or daily bread |
| May 17 | Forgive us our debts |
| May 24 | Do not lead us into temptation |
| May 31 | Conclusion - To Him ... Glory |

The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13

Week 1 - It Shouldn't Be This Hard

April 5, 2020

Thoughts and Questions

1. Introduction

Have you studied the Lord's Prayer before? What do you recall about that teaching?

Today's lesson first defines prayer as "talking to God" and then expands that to be "an intentional conveying of a message to God". Remembering Romans 8:26, what do you think about the expanded definition?

Can you think of any other means, other than speaking and groanings, of communicating to God in prayer?

2. Who Art in Heaven

Today's lesson relies on Romans 8:20 to establish a world view that we all exist in, and are a part of, a creation that has been subjected to futility. Do you agree? In what other ways do you see this subjection as impacting our lives?

We looked back at the change in Adam's and Eve's relationship with God as a result of their sin (Genesis 3:8-10). Recalling shortcomings in your life, can you identify with how they felt? How did they respond when confronted? (read the next few verses). Was God just in his actions to punish sin?

3. In Hope

Considering that all of creation is subjected to futility, what do think of the value of any remedy that comes from inside of that futility? What things do people cling to as their way of dealing with the condition of the world?

Romans 1:16,17 says that the gospel (the good news of His life, death and resurrection) reveals the righteousness of God. The gospel reveals so much about God, His love, grace, mercy, and so much more. Why do you think that the righteousness of God is the focus here? Why should we continue to study the gospel?

Closing thoughts – Thank Jesus for leaving heaven and entering this futile, fallen world to save us. Thank God (in prayer) for the great privilege of prayer! Pray that God would show you more and more of His righteousness through the gospel.

**The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13**

Week 2 – Our Father

April 12, 2020

1. Introduction

Last week we began our study series by looking at the second part of the first line “who art in Heaven”.

We did this to better understand why we sometimes struggle with prayer. Though saved by the grace of God, we sometimes act through that remaining part of our old sin nature, and limit our prayer lives. We saw that this is overcome by seeking forgiveness and focusing on the righteousness of God as revealed in the gospel. A righteousness imparted to us at salvation by what we call our justification. The charging (or imputing) to Jesus' account our sin and the charging to our account His righteousness.

Our most primary, fundamental need is met in our justification. Though still living a world subject to futility, we are once again rightly related to God. We are able to enjoy “every spiritual blessing”, including a deep and rich prayer life. The appreciation of our salvation, that there is a God in heaven and that His has entered this world to suffer and die for us, establishes our attitude in prayer – humble thankfulness.

Today we drop back to the beginning of the Lord's Pray and focus on the one to whom we are praying – Our Father. The God we pray to has a name, and it is Father.

2. Adoption

We pray to God as Father because He has adopted us as His children (Ephesians 1:3-6). Because of His kindness and with a result that we praise His grace, we are adopted as His children – through Jesus Christ.

John 1:12 shows that “through Jesus Christ” means that we have believed in Jesus. At our second birth we have been born again into God's forever family.

Our justification met our first and primary need and provided the means for the higher blessing of adoption (“that we might receive the adoption” - Galatians 4:4-7) Also, these verses tell us that our experience of the familial relationship with God is the assurance of our salvation as evidenced by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Last week we focused on the revelation of God's righteousness in the gospel. This week we focus on the love of God through living in vital relationship with our Father in heaven. (1 John 3:1a)

3. Difficulties

People can struggle with knowing God as Father because of their experience with their earthly fathers. Those whose fathers were absent or sadly not living during their childhoods may have difficulty building an understanding of fatherhood. Those whose fathers did not perform well can

leave suspect or angry with the idea of God as Father. Great fathers can help their children develop relationship with Father God, but there are always limits to this ability.

The danger here is how we approach our understanding of God as Father. Rather than building this understanding by comparison or contrast to our earthly fathers, we look the relationship of God to His Son Jesus, as found in scripture, for the perfect model.

4. So What?

So how does knowing God as our intimate loving Father affect our prayers? Consider the feelings and emotions we bring to prayer and how God can change those, resulting in a stronger prayer life. Here are four "movements" that God can take us "from" and "to".

Move from anxiety to peace (Philippians 4:6,7)

Move from fear to feeling safe and secure (John 10:29)

Move from anger to calm contentment (Luke 6:35)

Move from sadness to joy (2 Cor 1:3,4)

There are many more. Pray for God your Father to show you more!

The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13

Week 3 – Hallowed Be Thy Name

April 19, 2020

1. Introduction

Good morning, and welcome or welcome back to the “at home” version of Sunday Morning Bible Study at First Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Florida. It is Sunday, April 19th, 2020 and we are continuing study of the Lord's Prayer. We are looking at how the content and framework of the Lord's Prayer can help us as we pray.

This week is week 3 of our study. In our first two sessions we considered the first line of the prayer “Our Father who art in heaven.” In those sessions we saw that we pray to our loving Father in Heaven, a Father whose incomprehensible love has adopted us as His children. We saw that that adoption made possible through Jesus Christ. Through faith in Jesus as God's only Son, His birth, life, death, burial and resurrection.

Today we begin to look at the things we asked of God in prayer. These requests are also called petitions or supplications.

2. Two Sets of Requests

For our study, we have been using the Lord's Prayer, or model prayer taught by Jesus, found in Matthew 6:9-13.

In these verses we can see that there are 6 things that we are taught to ask for. We also can see that these 6 requests are into 2 sets of 3.

The first three are for God Himself and second three are for the things that we need. First, we focus on God and His glory (hallowed be Thy name), reign (Thy kingdom come), and will (Thy will be done).

We then move onto the things we need – sustenance (our daily bread), forgiveness (forgive us our debts), and protection (lead us not into temptation).

The order is very important. It establishes much needed perspective. It magnifies and elevates God, while keeping us in awe, thankful, and humble.

3. What are we asking?

Let's approach the first petition of the Lord's Prayer “Hallowed be Thy Name” by asking two questions:

1. What does it mean to hallow something?
2. What is in a name?

Answer 1:

Hallow as a verb (hagiozo) – To acknowledge, consecrate, dedicate, to set aside, or to treat something as holy.

The video used the example of the dedication of Abraham Lincoln's dedication of the cemetery at the Gettysburg battlefield. We then considered the things that we have hallowed in our lives, marriages, births, and other meaningful places or memories. What are yours?

Answer 2:

In speaking someone's name we bring to our mind the totality of the person.

When we speak of the name of God, we understand it to be holy.

Psalm 105:3 - Glory in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek the Lord be glad.

Holy as an adjective (hagios) – separate, distinct, different. With respect to God – wholly different from us: the sum of all His majestic perfections.

Putting the two answers together:

When we ask God "Hallowed be thy Name" we are asking "God cause Yourself to be seen, understood, valued, revered, and worshipped and as holy above all things."

5. The So What Question?

Do we have some role, some personal responsibility, with regard to this first petition?

Consider Isaiah 6:3 – "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts, the whole earth is filled with His glory." God's glory on display and in our experience is the outpouring or manifestation of His holiness.

Consider Isaiah 43:7 – "Everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made." We have been created and called for His glory. We can serve as beacons through which God can display His glory.

Five ways we can serve to display the glory of God:

- In our acts of believing – Romans 4:20
- When we worship – I Chronicles 16:28-29
- In our serving in His name – Matthew 5:16
- In the midst of our suffering – Peter 4:12-13
- When we seek the welfare of others – I Corinthians 10:31

The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13

Week 4 – Thy Kingdom Come

April 26, 2020

1. Introduction

Today we are in Week 4 of our study, considering the request “Thy Kingdom Come”. First let's recall the structure of the Lord's Prayer that we find in Matthew 6:9-13:

- An address
- 3 requests of God for God
- 3 requests of God for Us
- Praise and Adoration

In our first 2 sessions we looked at “who art in heaven” and saw that we pray to our Father in Heaven who has expressed that incredible love by adopting us. We saw that that adoption made possible through Jesus Christ. Through faith in Jesus as God's only Son, His birth, life, death, burial and resurrection.

Last week we considered the request “Hallowed be Thy Name”. God cause Yourself to be seen, understood, valued, revered, and worshipped as holy above all things.

The Lord's Prayer is in scripture 2 times. In Matthew 6:9-19 Jesus in is Galilee early in His ministry, giving the Sermon on the Mount. In Luke 11:2-4 many months have gone by and Jesus is now teaching in Judea.

Comparing the two we see that they contain many of the same elements, but there are some that in Matthew that are not in Luke. What do we make of this? Is there an inconsistency? No, there is complete compatibility. All of scripture is inspired and worthy ... Perhaps this is Jesus' way to tell us you must consult all of the Word in order to get a complete picture. Perhaps this is Jesus' way to tell us to not get too hung up on rigorous form. Sometimes our prayers are offered in an established time when we can work through things completely. Sometimes prayers are offered at the spur of the moment. They do not make them any less valid.

This reminds me of Nehemiah in Babylonian captivity serving King Artaxerxes. The king notice that Nehemiah was sad, but as of yet didn't know why. When asked by the king why the sadness, Nehemiah revealed that he was upset because Jerusalem lie in ruins. The dialog picks up in Chapter 2 verse 4:

⁴ Then the king said to me, “What would you request?” So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵ I said to the king, “If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it.”

There, in front of the king, Nehemiah collects himself, offers up a quick prayer, and then speaks. And look at the results. Nehemiah returns with three waves of people to rebuild the walls, the temple, and to restore worship. What do you think he prayed? Give me strength? Let the king

be receptive? I have been asking you for this for some time, here we go, help! Whenever God gives you the urge to pray – pray!

2. The Kingdom of God

When we talk about the Kingdom of God as revealed in the Bible, we are talking big picture. Some say that it is the overarching theme or meta-narrative of the Bible. That overarching theme can be seen in four major movements – creation, rebellion (the fall), redemption, and restoration.

To support these thoughts, consider the following passages:

- Ps 103:19 – “The LORD has established His throne in the heavens; And His sovereignty rules over all” – God has been and will always be eternally king.
- 1 Samuel 8:6,7 – “But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the LORD. The LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.”” – People have always rebelled and rejected the Kingship of God.
- Matthew 4:17 – “From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”” – Jesus' focus on primarily on the Kingdom. It was the central theme of His teaching and preaching.
- Colossians 1:13 – “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.” – At salvation we become citizens of that kingdom.
- John 3:5,6 – Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” – The realm of the Kingdom of God on earth is present within us.
- Matthew 28:18 “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and earth.” – At Jesus' resurrection He reigns as King.
- 1 Corinthians 15:24, 25 – “Then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.” – At the consummation of all time Jesus will yield back to His Father His reign as King.

Definition – Kingdom = King + Dominion – a ruler and a place – 3 aspects with respect to God and His Kingdom

- The rule of an eternal sovereign god over all of the universe
- The spiritual rule over the hearts and lives of those who submit
- The future literal rule in the new heavens and earth.

3. Thy Kingdom Come

In light of these verses, we can build a background to asking that “Thy Kingdom Come.”

First and perhaps most obvious is that we are asking that God bring redemptive history to an end, that He establish His Kingdom permanently here on earth. That kingdom whose citizens are always in perfect submission to His rule and reign.

But, there other aspects to this prayer. Redemptive history is not complete. We live in the time referred to as “the already and the not yet.” Jesus is the victorious King. The defeat of all that is evil is secured. We now wait for the culmination of that victory. So, we can also pray that God’s kingdom come in two other ways:

1. God make me a more loyal servant in your kingdom. Expand my heart so that I may fulfill all that you would have me to do.

2. God, please save other people. Let your kingdom come in their hearths as well.

The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13

Week 5 – Thy Will Be Done

May 3, 2020

1. Introduction

Today is the 5th week in our in-depth look at the Lord's Prayer. We are analyzing the structure and content of the prayer in order to improve our prayer lives. We are considering the following structure of the Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13:

- An address – Our Father who art in heaven
- 3 requests of God for God – Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
- 3 requests of God for Us – Daily bread, Forgiveness of sin, deliverance from evil
- Praise and Adoration – For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory

In our first 2 sessions we saw that we pray to our Father in Heaven who has expressed that incredible love by adopting us. We saw that that adoption made possible through Jesus Christ. Through faith in Jesus as God's only Son, His birth, life, death, burial and resurrection.

In session 3 we considered the request "Hallowed be Thy Name". We found we are asking God cause Himself to be seen, understood, valued, revered, and worshipped as holy above all things.

Last week we looked at the second of the first three requests – "Thy kingdom come." And we considered that this request had three facets: 1) let Your forever kingdom be established now; 2) grow the rule of your kingdom in my heart; and 3) increase your kingdom by adding more people to it.

Today we look at the last of the first three requests – "Thy will be done."

2. What is the Will?

We consider the mind to have three major faculties:

Thinking – to reason, deduce, imagine, compute, judge, perceive

Feeling – our emotions: happiness, sadness, joy, despair, etc.

Willing – our want to do things, driven by our desires

It has been proposed that we make our decisions base on the most pressing desire at the moment.

3. Can We Know the Will of God?

It should not come as a surprise that the mind of God, as we have had it revealed to us in Scripture, presents these three faculties – thinking, feeling and willing. The difference is that He executes these faculties without flaw.

But can we come to know it?

Romans 11:33,34 - Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?

Yet, consider the following verses:

Psalms 143:10 – Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God; Let Thy good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Rom 12:2 – And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Col 1:9 - For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

1 Jn 5:14 - This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

So, we turn to scripture for guidance. For there we see the revealed will of God. Consider these examples:

Revelation 4:11 - It is God's will to be the Creator of all things.

"Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."

1 Timothy 2:3-4 - It is God's will that all are saved.

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Hebrews 10:8-10 - It was God's will that Jesus sacrifice Himself to make us holy.

After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin Thou hast not desired, nor Hast Thou taken pleasure in them" (which were offered according to the Law), then he said, "Behold, I have come to do Thy will." He takes away the first in order to establish the second. By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

John 6:40 - It is God's Will that He Keeps Those He Saves

"For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

A problem arises in the human mind, however, in looking at just these four examples – three seem to be definitive, and one looks like it doesn't always happen. How do we make sense of this?

4. Categories of the Will of God

I have been told that it is the prerogative of theologians to make distinctions. And to get a better hold on the will of God that is just what we need.

Categories of God's will

His will of Decree – or His sovereign will. Definitive. No questions asked. Often these are secret to us, known only after the fact. Sometimes they are yet to come, but we are given privy to know them. Sometimes we are not.

His will of Command – His moral will. Can be resisted. But not without punitive ramifications

A nuance of God's will is the permissiveness will. His allowing things to happen. Which include both the good and sinful acts of corrupt humanity. To achieve a greater end.

Joseph Genesis 50:20

Jesus Acts 2:22:23

This aspect of His will is very difficult to understand, and we should be very careful when we discuss it.

5. So bring this home – so what? What are we praying for?

So, what are we praying for? All of it, that His sovereign will of decree be done, that His moral commands and precepts be done, and that He permits what He will in order to achieve that which is best for us.

To do that with sincerity, however, we need to acknowledge the a few things:

1. His right to have His will rule
2. A dedication to seeing that His will be accomplished
3. That His will is the best for us
4. Trusting in His will as the best for us is not a passive action of submission but an active and engaging faith

The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13

Week 6 – Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

May 10, 2020

1. Introduction

Last week we reached the half-way point in our study of the Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13. Our previous study has shown that we pray to our Father in heaven, who has become our Father by adopting us, and that adoption because of our faith in Jesus. We then took on the first three petitions for which Jesus teaches us to pray:

- Hallowed be Thy Name – a prayer for His glory
- Thy Kingdom Come – a prayer for His dominion
- Thy Will Be Done – a prayer for His rule

Today we begin the second set of three petitions, those focused on our needs.

- Give us this day our daily bread
- Forgive us our debts
- Lead us not into temptation

Our loving heavenly father is all glorious, magnificent in every way, far greater in every way that we can imagine, is meets our needs every moment of every day of our lives. Today we are looking at the first of these three requests - Give us this day our daily bread.

2. The Bible and Bread

Bread is a world-wide nutritional staple of life. In some form it is present in nearly every culture. From baguettes to bagels, from focaccia to lavash, from naan to tortillas - the world depends on bread. In some parts of the world there is an abundance of bread, in other places its laborious preparation is a part of daily process of surviving.

Bread is very present in the Bible – mentioned over 286 times. Consider the following major accounts that are shaped around bread:

Unleavened bread and the exodus
Manna in the wilderness
Elijah and the widow
Jesus' temptation in the wilderness
Jesus feedings of the multitudes
I am the Bread of Life
Breaking the bread at the last supper

I think, looking through the bible, It is important to recognize, when we pray, "give us this day", we are embracing the physical reality of nourishment, but also, through context, example, and metaphor, we are asking for God to meet all of our daily needs.

3. What are our daily needs?

It may help to consider three categories of needs, so that when we pray we are able to embrace the wide scope of what God will supply.

- Our Physical Needs – Water, food, shelter, clothing, health work

Matthew 6:31-33 – "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

- Our Emotional Needs – Love, acceptance, belonging, peace, security, self-esteem, intimacy, meaning

Psalms 107:8-9 – Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men! For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, And the hungry soul He has filled with what is good.

Psalms 63:4-5 – So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips

- Our Spiritual Needs – Fundamentally, Jesus is the Bread of Life. But God also meets every other spiritual need – understanding, guidance, contentment, joy,

John 6:48-51 – "I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh."

Ephesians 1:3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

James 1:17 – Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

4. Our Mindset in this Petition?

When we analyze this petition word by word, we see that there are certain attitudes we should have in mind when we are praying.

Give:

- Acknowledges that we are dependent on God to meet our needs. Nothing else.
- Acknowledges that we have confidence that God is able and will meet our needs.
- Acknowledges that these things are gifts. We accept them thankfully.

Us/Our:

Us: plural pronoun possessive, Our: plural adjective.

- Acknowledges we are engaged with praying this for ourselves and others.
- Acknowledges that we are asking that which is right for us individually and collectively.

Daily Bread:

A word whose origin is difficult to know. Two possible interpretations.

- Our bread of necessity
- Our bread which suffices for today.

Both definitions speak to our daily need to go to God in prayer.

Deuteronomy 8:3 – And He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.

Proverbs 30:7-9 – Two things I asked of Thee, Do not refuse me before I die: Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, Lest I be full and deny Thee and say, “Who is the Lord?” Or lest I be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.

5. Summing Thing Up

We are to ask God to meet all of our physically, emotionally, and spiritual needs on a daily basis.

D. L. Moody had a great observation with regard to this petition:

"A man can no more take a supply of grace for the future than he can eat enough today to last him for the next 6 months, nor can he inhale sufficient air into his lungs with one breath to sustain life for a week to come. We are permitted to draw upon God's store of grace from day to day as we need it! God never gives His strength in advance, so let's stop crossing bridges before we come to them. The Heavenly Father will graciously supply our every need—one day at a time! Don't try to bear tomorrow's burdens with today's grace.

A final observation: We should fully realize how blessed the great majority of us are when it comes to having bread and our other daily needs met. It is not the case elsewhere in the world, our own country, state and town. God calls us to help those in need. He uses us to be the instrument of God in answering this prayer for those who are in need. How can we who are so blessed not do so?

**The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13**

Week 7 – Forgive Us our Debts

May 17, 2020

1. Introduction

Good morning and welcome to the May 17th, 2020 Sunday Morning Bible Study ... At-Home Edition, from First Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Florida.

This is Week 7 of our in-depth look into the Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13. Today it is all about forgiveness. In verse 12:

“And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors,”

Awkward video!

2. Which is it Debts or Trespasses?

The earliest English translation of the whole bible was by John Wycliffe in 1382. He used the words debts and debtors. His translation was based on the Latin Vulgate.

In 1526 William Tyndale published his English translation in 1526, using the words trespasses and trespassers.

Tyndale, a leading reformer in England, was hated by Henry the 8th for many reasons including his lack of support for annulling of his marriage with Catherine of Aragon in favor of Anne Boleyn. This led to his persecution by Henry.

Ten years after publishing his translation, Tyndale is betrayed, arrested and branded a heretic. He is executed being strangled and then burned at the stake.

The King James Bible was published 1611 with the words debts and debtors. The KJV relied heavily on Tyndale's translation, using about 80% of his work.

We may never know why Tyndale translated these words as he did, but by the time the KJV was available, the worship and liturgy of people had already included both renderings. This continues to today.

3. God Forgives Sin.

God, and God alone can forgive our sins. Consider the following verses to better understand the nature and extend of the forgiveness that God offers.

Eph 1:7

Romans 4:1-8

Psalm 103:12

Isaiah 43:25.

Romans 8:1

Yes, when we are saved we have all of our past sins forgiven. Our experience is, however, that we continue to sin after we are saved.

We recognize our sinful state - Romans 7:25

And we confess our sins - 1 John 1:9

Note the connecting words in these three requests: and , but ..

Just as we daily bread, we need daily forgiveness and daily protection.

4. A Contingent Request

... as we also have forgiven our debtors.

We are called to be a forgiving people.

Matthew 6:14,15

Matthew 18:21,22

Ephesians 4:32 (and others)

But forgiveness is hard painful work. Consider three aspects of God's offer of forgiveness. We are allowed to model this behavior.

1)The offer of forgiveness may not be received or even recognized as necessary.

God in his sovereignty, acting through His providence, gives freedom to reject the offer of forgiveness. Some are so hardened that they are oblivious to what God would do for them.

2) The offer of forgiveness does not necessarily lead to reconciliation

They may not be alive, it may not be safe, the damage may be so severe that it will take a lifetime go get past it. But it can!

3)The offer of Forgiveness does not mean you are to forget the offense. Just the holding onto it in order to continually condemn. Sin is sin and bad is bad. The memories that we hang onto, however, can only be for our good and His glory.

Numbers 14

The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13

Week 8 – Lead Us Not into Temptation

May 24, 2020

1. Introduction

Good morning! It is May 24th, 2020, and this Sunday Morning Bible Study from First Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Florida. We are in the 8th week of our study of the Lord's Prayer. We have been considering the prayer as presented in Matthew 6:9-13.

Today we look at the last of the 6 petitions in the beginning of verse 13:

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;”

At first glance this petition may seem fairly straight forward, but, when we look elsewhere in scripture, we see that there may be more here than meets the eye. Consider James 1:13

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

So, it cannot be clear enough, God has nothing to do with tempting us.

But then, as in today's petition, why pray to God that He not do what He won't do? We obviously need to dig a little deeper.

2. Fun with Greek

Let's start our digging by looking at some of the original language behind the English that we are reading in the 6th petition of the Lord's Prayer.

Matthew 6:13a

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

- lead (eisphérō) to bring or lead into
- deliver (rhýomai) to draw to one's self, to rescue to deliver
- evil (ponērós) wicked, bad, evil, peril nominative case: “The Evil One”
- temptation (peirasmós) a trial, test, or temptation

We see peirasmós used both ways – trials and temptations. Consider the following two examples:

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

James 1:12

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

The word by itself looks to be morally neutral. It is the context that it is used in that makes the difference.

3. Two Scenarios

We are helped in our understanding of the relationship of trials and temptations by considering two scenarios. We will use trial as the morally positive translation and temptation as the morally negative translation.

Scenario 1: When we walk into a trial ordained by God, we can emerge successful as we engage it by faith, believing in the promises of God and in obedience to His commands. Now Satan is not omniscient, but very observant, and when we are in the trial, he comes to tempt us. That temptation is to any other end than what God is looking to achieve through the test. If we are carried away by our desires we sin and fail the trial.

Scenario 2: While walking in obedience to God, Satan can initiate a temptation. But know that it can only come to you through the gracious permission of God. In the midst of the temptation we can choose to succumb and be lured away by our own lusts with the result being sin. We can also choose not to sin, to live by faith, and with God's power turn the temptation into a test which we pass with excellence.

And so, we see every trial is attacked by a temptation and every temptation presents an opportunity to transform it to a test. The moral positive and moral negative are linked in the struggle to be led by God.

4. But What About the Way We Pray

So far, we have looked at two ways to translate the same greek word, trials and temptations, and we have looked at two scenarios to see how they interact with one another. But does this work with the last petition in the Lord's Prayer. Let's say it both ways:

1. Lead us not into temptation – I quickly answer YES – I don't want any of that. Yet in the back of my mind I know that no temptation of Satan comes my way without God's permission and that if I move through it effectively, I grow and honor God.
2. Lead us not into trials – My first reaction is NO. God has placed this before me, who am I to ask that it not happen. Yet in the back of my mind I know that in the midst of it Satan will attack and I may fail.

I have my answers, but I am conflicted. Let's look at the most significant of these in the life of Jesus to help with our conflicted feelings.

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came and said

to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" Then the devil took Him into the holy city; and he had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down; for it is written,

*'HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU';and
'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP,
LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'*"

Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'" Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; and he said to Him, "All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

Matthew 26:36-45

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me." And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt." And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? "Keep watching and praying, that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Thy will be done." 43And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more. Then He came to the disciples, and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Our Yes and No answers to the two ways of praying, using the words temptations/trials, are on more shaky ground. Is there a resolution? Yes, the petition goes on:

but deliver us from evil or the evil one.

Lord you have given me teaching and example that it is ok to ask that you not lead me into temptation or trial. I am so weak and afraid – please keep them from me ...Unless this is the way you desire that Your name be hallowed, Your kingdom come, and Your will be done. But I cannot bear it without you. Be with me, strengthen me, turn the temptation into a trial or the trial away from temptation for Your glory. No matter what it costs me.

5. A Promise of the Faithfulness of God

We started with what seemed to be a simple request, but we have concluded that this 6th petition requires our total reliance on God and our total commitment to His good ends.

We will conclude today by considering a wonderful promise that we can trust in as we pray this part of the Lord's Prayer.

I Cor 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

God is faithful. He limits trials and temptations to that which we, with His power, are able to be subjected to. He provides a means of escape – drawing you to Himself. The escape does not remove us from the temptation/trial but allows us to endure.