

## THE MODEL PRAYER

### Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the prayer and explain how it applies to us.
2. Matt. 6:9-13 "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."
  - a. Only 66 words
  - b. Short but powerful
3. "The secret of all failure is prayerlessness."
  - a. Jesus instructed his disciples about how to pray
  - b. In fact his followers requested of Jesus: "Lord, teach us to pray..." Lk. 11:1
  - c. Christ taught us that "men ought always to pray, and not to faint." Lk. 18:1
  - d. Called the Lord's prayer, or Disciples prayer. Really it is the Model Prayer.
4. In the Sermon on the Mount there are 111 verses - Jesus is teaching us how to live.
  - a. 18 of the verses deal directly with prayer
  - b. Mt. 6:1-8 Jesus shows the motives for doing things
  - c. The Pharisees were guilty of doing things for the praise of men. Jesus condemned this practice.
5. Lesson plan:
  - a. General principles about worship
  - b. Explanation of the sample prayer

## Discussion

### I. THOUGHTS ABOUT WORSHIP Matt. 6: 1-8

- A. Matt. 6:1-4 Must not do alms to be seen of men
1. Alms = acts of righteousness
  2. Why do you do them? Is it just to be seen of men?
  3. Hypocrites sound their trumpets so others will be sure to see them
  4. They have their full reward - praise of men
  5. Do it with the proper motive and God will reward
- B. Matt. 6:5-7 Prayer must be with the right motive
1. Prayer is not to be done for others to see
  2. Hypocritical — pretending to be worshiping - really an effort to obtain honour from men
  3. Private -
  4. Vain Repetitions
    - a. Meaningless repetition of certain set words and phrases
    - b. He has turned off his mind without turning off his tongue.
    - c. Repetition is not wrong - but we must pray with the spirit and the understanding. 1 Cor. 14:15
  5. Long prayers - some people then and now think that the longer the better - not so!!

C. Notice the pattern of the Model prayer

1. It is brief - only 66 words - can be spoken in less than one minute
2. It covers both the spiritual and physical concerns
3. It is simple
4. It is direct

D. This Model prayer is:

1. Not a set ritualistic form to be repeated over and over but a model of what a prayer should be.
2. Jesus did not say "Pray in these words" but he said "After this manner therefore pray ye:"
3. He was supplying a pattern [example, - sample ] which the disciples could use as a model for their prayers.

## **II. THE MODEL PRAYER Matt. 6:9-13**

A. Invocation - THE ONE ADDRESSED

1. Our Father
  - a. We must believe in God for it to be acceptable
  - b. "Our" teaches us that we are the children of God -and we are not to pray just for ourselves
  - c. We are children of God by a spiritual relation
2. Which art in heaven
  - a. Isa. 6:1-3 "...the whole earth is full of his glory."
  - b. But God is in heaven

- c. Pantheism believes that *God* is the earth and all things therein
- d. *God* is in heaven and our prayers must be from the heart not just merely from our physical lips - our voice could not be heard by volume alone.

## B. Petitions concerning *GOD*

### 1. "HALLOWED BE THY NAME"

- a. Means to sanctify or to revere, respect - to reverence - to make holy
- b. We are to praise and adore *God*
- c. Isa. 6:3 "Holy, Holy, Holy. "
- d. ". . . holy and reverend is his name." Ps. 111:9b
- e. These disciples would be worshiping *God* in "spirit and truth" instead of in tabernacles, temples and altars. "

### 2. "THY KINGDOM COME"

- a. Kingdom and church are the same - Matt. 16:18-19
- b. At this time it was still in the future - it was proper for them to pray this because Jesus taught them to do it.
- c. Since it has now come we should not pray "thy kingdom come" because this would imply that we do not believe it has yet been established.
- d. This is the only part of the prayer that we should alter to make it appropriate for us today.
- e. Instead pray "Thy kingdom increase", "Thy kingdom spread"

### 3. "THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN"

- a. God's will is supreme in heaven — The angels are always ready and waiting to do His bidding. The sole aim of all heaven is to do the will of God.
- b. On earth the church is subject to Christ - Eph. 5:24
  - (1) "Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ,..."
  - (2) The disciples as citizens of the new kingdom would also be servants.
  - (3) Paul declared that he was "...servant of Jesus Christ" Rm. 1:1
- c. The will of God must be done:
  - (1) Everywhere
  - (2) At all times
  - (3) By all beings
- d. We must pray for God's will to be done in our own lives -
- e. Jn. 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."
- f. Luke 22:42 "saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.""

#### C. Petitions concerning man

##### 1. "GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD"

- a. We must depend upon our Heavenly Father for everything
- b. The Israelites depended upon the Lord to provide them their daily manna - Exodus 16:4
- c. We must cast all our cares upon him "for he careth for us" - I Pet. 5:7

2. "AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS"
- a. Christians cannot declare themselves without sin - 1 Jn. 1:8-10
  - b. Our sins have the resemblance of a debt that is impossible to pay but that the creditor can remit.
  - c. Christ has forgiven us our sins - that we could never do by ourselves.
  - d. Then in v. 14-15 Christ comments upon this thought
    - (1) This is the only part of the prayer that he makes a comment about
    - (2) It shows the importance of forgiveness of one another in the eyes of Jesus.
    - (3) Warning - the unforgiving heart will not receive the Lord's mercy.
    - (4) Forgiveness is dependent upon our forgiveness.
3. "AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL"
- a. God does not tempt[solicit]us to sin but that is of the devil -Jas. 1:13-14
  - b. Temptation - here means anything that will test or try our faith as in the case of Job.
  - c. We have been promised that "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. " 1 Cor. 10:13
  - d. We should pray to God that we can be delivered from evil that faces us.
  - e. Pray for wisdom to find the EXIT!
  - f. 2 Pet. 2:9 "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations,."

## D. DOXOLOGY

### 1. "FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY FOREVER. "

(1) Doxology - an expression of praise to God

(2) 1 Chro. 29:11 "Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all."

(3) Kingdom - is the church - it is forever

(4) Power - strength to establish and maintain his kingdom

(5) Glory - honor that comes to God because man can be saved by the kingdom.

(6) God is the master and this is His world

(7) We should give this honor to Him.

b. "AMEN" - So be it!

## CONCLUSION

1. This is often called the "Lord's Prayer" but it is actually the Disciples prayer for He used this as a model to teach us how to pray
2. This has all the essentials of prayer:
  - a. Invocation - address to God
  - b. Petitions - about God
    - (1) Hallowed be thy name.
    - (2) Thy Kingdom Come
    - (3) Thy Will Be done about Man
  - c. Petitions about man
    - (1) Bread
    - (2) Debts
    - (3) Temptation
  - d. Doxology - closing
3. Prayer is a precious privilege of the children of God.
4. Let us "Pray without ceasing" I Thes. 5:17
5. To live for God we must pray to God!