



GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

This is part 6 of the PrayER – Learning From Jesus How To Pray sermon series

SUMMARY

God knew that as we make our way through life that there would be certain elements and circumstances that would come into our life that were simply greater than we are. His solution to the problems of our life was to make Himself and His resources available to His people. The means by which we can tap into the presence, the provisions, and the power of God is prayer, and yet, most of prayer lives are struggling to show any signs of life. In this series of thoughts, we are taking our prayer life to the emergency where we will learn from the Great Physician how to pray.

REVIEW

In this study, we're journeying through the model prayer and we're discovering how to pray. So far, we've considered the following:

We looked at the phrase "...Our Father which art in Heaven..." and we found that when we pray, we should pray according to our **ADOPTION**, according to our Father's **AUTHORITY**, and according to a right **AFFECTION**.

We looked at the phrase "...Hallowed be thy name...." and we found that our prayers should consist of two parts: the **VERTICAL** part (our relationship with God) and the **HORIZONTAL part** (our relationship with the world around us). Prayer is more than just a way for us to **GET**

SOMETHING FROM GOD; prayer is a way for us to **GIVE SOMETHING TO GOD**. We give God glory when we recognize the holiness of God when we enter into His presence.

We looked at the phrase “...*Thy kingdom come...*” and we found that it is an expression of the heart that desires for the **WORD** of God and the **WORK** of God to become a reality.

We looked at the phrase “...*Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven...*” and we found that the goal of our prayer life must be our surrender to the Lord’s will. There is nothing that we **WANT** that is more important than God’s **WILL** for our life – **NOTHING!**

MESSAGE

Matthew 6:9-15 says, “*After this manner therefore pray ye: 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. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*”

If you’re in the habit of marking things in the Word of God, I’d like to draw your attention to verse 11 where the Bible says, “*Give us this day our daily bread.*”

For a few moments, I’d like to consider this thought: **GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.**

As we come to the next section of this model prayer, we also see that a major shift has taken place – from the **VERTICAL** (our relationship with God) to the **HORIZONTAL** (to our relationship with the world that is around us).

The beginning of this model has been focused on the name of God being glorified by us, on the kingdom of God being established in this world, and on the will of God being done in our life.

The latter portion of this model is focused on the needs of our life: our **PROVISIONS**, our **PARDON** (forgiveness), our **PROTECTION**, and our **PRAISE-GIVING**.

What we find here is the wonderful truth that God isn’t just concerned about His **DESIRES** for our life; God is concerned with the very **DETAILS** of our life. When we study through the pages of Scripture, we find that God cares about all of His creation, but we also find that He is interested in the specifics of the lives of people, but He is especially interested in the particulars of the lives of His children.

In Matthew 6:26, Jesus says it this way, “*Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?*”

The word *better* here literally means “of more importance.” God cares about the fowls of the air, and He feeds them. However, in a much greater way, God cares about us, and He wants to help us.

1 Peter 5:6-7 says, *“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”*

Here Peter makes a very specific and very important connection – our **HELP** is connected to our **HUMILITY**. Too often, when it comes to the realities of our life, we **OVERESTIMATE** our abilities, and we **UNDERESTIMATE** God’s readiness to help. What I mean by that is that we often think that we can do more than we really can, or we think that our need isn’t big enough to take to God in prayer. News flash – because of how great God is everything is small to Him, but His care for us extends to every area of our life and every need in our life. What He desires is for us to draw nearer and nearer to Him.

James 4:8 says, *“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you...”*

Having established that foundation, we come back to our key statement – *“Give us this day our daily bread.”* To understand this statement fully, I think it best to simply work our way through it.

Upon first glance, the first word of the statement appears to be the word *give*, but it’s not. It’s the understood *You* that refers back to *“Our Father...”* Essentially this statement is, *“Father, give us this day our daily bread.”* This isn’t so much a command as it is the acknowledgement that God cares for His children, that God is capable of meeting the needs of His children, and that God delights in answering the prayers and meeting the needs of His children.

Philippians 4:19-20 says, *“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*

We then come to the phrase *give us*. This phrase encapsulates two key truths:

(1) We can bring our urgent needs to the Lord

The word *give* is in the imperative mood. Now, what that means is that it is something that is urgent. It’s something that is needed now. I don’t know about you, but I’m grateful that God knows what I need today, and I’m grateful that God can meet my need today.

Matthew 6:8 says, *“Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.”*

(2) The Father loves to give good things to His children.

Like any father, God delights in meeting the needs of His children. He enjoys answering the prayers of His children, seeing the enjoyment of His children, and hearing the gratitude of His children for the good things that He does in their lives.

Psalm 84:11-12 says, *"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."*

James 1:17 says, *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."*

The next phrase is "...*this day*..." This emphasizes our understanding of our daily dependence on God to work in our life. God has a way of giving us enough for today so that we come back to Him tomorrow for what is needed then. We all struggle with wanting to be self-sufficient, but God wants us to learn to trust Him.

Psalm 118:8 says, *"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."*

And that brings us to the final phrase – "...*our daily bread*." When this phrase was spoken, they understood exactly what it meant. We often hear the phrase "Living paycheck to paycheck, but they lived day to day. I can't help but connect this to the previous statement. The reality is that I need God to work in my life on a daily basis.

In Jesus' day, the average laborer received enough pay for the next day's food often without the promise of work for the next day.

Matthew 6:30-34 says, *"Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."*

While I have no problem seeing the word *bread* as referring to the physical necessities of today (because after all, I could not make it a single day without Him), I want to remind you that Jesus is elevating our prayer life to that which is spiritual. Now, there are many that would disagree with me here, but as we look at this model prayer, we find that there is a spiritual aspect to every element of this prayer. And I don't think that this one is any different. Yes, my body needs nourishment, but so does my spirit, and God wants to accomplish that work in my life as well.

In John 6:35, Jesus said, *“And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”*

Jesus said, in Luke 4:4, *“And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.”*

In the previous chapter, Jesus had just taught this truth, *“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled”* (Matthew 5:6).