



**-- Video – Pray in This Way**

-- Read Luke 11:1-4

-- Pray

-- Differences in Occurrences of This Prayer

-- We know that Jesus spoke it on at least two occasions: Here, in private, to His disciples, and in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:9-13)

-- Both prayers are very similar, but there are minor variations.

-- Differences in Bible Translations

-- KJV and NKJV use a different family of original manuscripts than most other translations.

-- While these two families of manuscripts are virtually identical, there are a few differences, and the “Lord’s Prayer” is one of main differences.

**-- Big Idea: The “Lord’s Prayer” is God’s perfect framework for prayer.**

**1.) Jesus is history’s perfect prayer warrior.**

-- v. 1 – *“One day Jesus was praying in a certain place.”*

-- This section on prayer begins with Jesus praying.

-- Jesus did much more than simply teach on prayer. He prayed.

-- More than any other Gospel, the Gospel of Luke emphasizes the praying of our Lord.

-- Luke’s Gospel records nine prayers of Jesus, seven of which are unique to his gospel.

- In fact, most of the major events in Luke's Gospel are marked by prayers of Jesus.
  - He was praying at *His baptism*, when the Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove (Luke 3:21).
  - He began *His public ministry* with a 40-day fast in the wilderness (4:1–15).
  - Jesus prayed all night before *choosing the twelve disciples* (6:12).
  - Jesus was praying just before Peter's monumental confession of Him as Lord, (9:18-20).
  - He was praying just before His Transfiguration on Mount Sinai. (9:28).
  - Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane, just before He was betrayed (22:39-45).
  - In Luke's Gospel, all three statements Jesus makes from the cross are unique to Luke's Gospel, and all three are prayers.
  - We see Jesus praying here just before delivering this landmark teaching on prayer (11:1).
  - He was praying here at the beginning of our text today.
  - Luke 5:16 – "*Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*"
  - On earth, as a man, Jesus constantly sought strength and guidance from His Father in prayer.
  
- v. 11b – "*When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray...'*"

It is interesting to note that, although Jesus was surely the greatest preacher ever to live, Scripture nowhere records the disciples asking Him to teach them to preach. And, although Jesus was surely the greatest teacher ever to live, Scripture nowhere records the disciples asking Him to show them to teach. And, although Jesus was surely the greatest minister ever to live, Scripture nowhere records the disciples asking Him to show them to serve.

Rather, in this text, what seems to have mesmerized the disciples most about Jesus was the way in which He prayed. His prayers were different. They were powerful. They were passionate. They were personal. They were profound. In fact, the disciples were so captivated by Jesus' praying that, upon hearing Him pray one day, they simply couldn't help but ask, "Lord, how do you do that?" So

deeply inspired were they by the power of our Lord's praying that they came to Him and said to Him, "Lord, teach us how to pray."

## **2.) Jesus is history's perfect prayer teacher.**

Jesus, you see, is perfect in His understanding of prayer, because He is the only one who knows it intimately from both ends. That is, Jesus voiced prayers to God in His complete humanity; yet, and He also receives and mediates prayer as God himself. Truly, there never has been nor will there ever be a better teacher on prayer. And today, we have the unmitigated privilege to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to history's ultimate expert on prayer teach us how we are most blessed to pray.

## **3.) How we pray matters.**

- What do you think most people would say if you asked them the same question the disciples were essentially asking Jesus: "How should a person pray?" How do you think they would respond?
  - Holistic Online – "There are as many approaches to prayer as there are people in this planet. And, despite what experts say, there is no right and wrong way to pray... There are no hard-and-fast rules, no right or wrong, although some images of God may prove to be more effective than others... The style, content, and location of your praying is entirely up to you... Above all, pray from your heart."
  - I guess, according to Holistic Online, Jesus would be one of those so-called "experts" who doesn't know what He is talking about, because He doesn't seem to agree with this approach.

In reality, we can almost learn as much here from what Jesus doesn't say as we can from what He does say. Notice what He doesn't say: When asked by His disciples to teach them to pray, Jesus doesn't offer the same advice as Holistic Online. He doesn't say, "Oh, it doesn't really matter how you pray," or "Just pray however you like," or "There are a million ways to pray." Rather, in verse 2 He says, "*When you pray, say...*" and then He gives this beautiful and timeless model for prayer that we know as "the Lord's Prayer."

Now please don't get me wrong: It is better to pray in whatever way you think is best than not to pray at all—by far. However, as with every aspect of true Christianity, there are degrees of spiritual maturity. In other words, as we grow in

spiritual maturity, so will our prayers. The inverse is also true: As we grow in our praying, we will grow in our spirits.

#### **4.) “The Lord’s Prayer” is not really meant to be prayed word for word.**

- Mindlessly reciting rote prayers was a large part of the praying of the day.
- Matthew 6:7-8 (Just before the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew) – *“When you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”*
- Isaiah 29:13 – *“The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”*
- Moreover, the Lord’s Prayer is never repeated by any group of believers anywhere in the New Testament.
- Having said that, however, there is nothing wrong with reciting this exact prayer. (My family does so frequently in our devotions.)
  - However, if our hearts are not in it, we are probably better off not to offer it as a prayer.
  - Moreover, the best reason to recite it word for word is to keep it fresh in our hearts and minds as a template for effective praying.

#### **5.) The Lord’s Prayer is so important because it provides a divinely-inspired framework for prayer.**

- Here, in verses 2-4, as our Lord is teaching His disciples how to pray most effectively by revealing to them (and to us) His very own pattern for prayer. This is the framework that Jesus Himself used.
- This prayer, therefore, is a divinely-inspired template from which tremendous depths of prayer are meant to spring up and grow.
  - John MacArthur – “You can use this as a framework for a very short prayer. You can use this as a framework for a very long prayer. You can pray your way through this in five minutes. You can pray your way through this in five hours. You can pray your way through this in five days and five weeks. This prayer contains everything. It is applicable to all of God's people in all of times.”
  - Take this prayer one phrase at a time and pray through all of the purposes, passions, and promises that each idea represents.
  - (Illustrate...)

- To merely recite the Lord's Prayer is to barely scratch its surface.
  
- Mature praying is guided by what God says, not what we feel.
  - Sound familiar? Recall the account of Mary and Martha and the main point we drew from it last week: "Listen to what God says, not what you feel."
  - Just as authentic Christian living based upon and guided by God's Word and not our hearts, so too, authentic Christian praying is rooted in God's truth, not human desires.
  
- The Lord's Prayer provides the proper content of effective prayer.
  - The prayer begins with God and His glory.
    - "*Father*" – We pray to Him who is superior.
    - "*Hallowed be your name*" – We pray to Him who is sacred.
    - "*Your kingdom come*" – We pray to Him who is sovereign.
  - It continues with people and our great need.
    - The expression of our need is only voiced after God is has been exalted to His proper place.
      - "*Give us each day our daily bread.*" – We pray to Him who is our source.
      - "*Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.*" – We pray to Him who is our Savior.
      - "*And lead us not into temptation*" – We pray to Him who is our shelter.
  
- The Lord's Prayer provides the proper attitude for effective prayer.
  - "*Father*" – Pray intimately, like a child to his Father.
  - "*Hallowed be your name*" – Pray reverently, as a worshipper to his God.
  - "*Your kingdom come*" – Pray submissively, as a servant to his Master.
  - "*Give us each day our daily bread.*" – Pray dependently, as a beneficiary to his benefactor.
  - "*Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.*" – Pray contritely, as a sinner to his Savior.
  - "*And lead us not into temptation*" – Pray humbly, as a wanderer to his Guide.
  
- **Application**
  - Grow in your faith by growing in your prayer life.

-- Memorize the Lord's Prayer and use it as a framework for future praying.

We are just getting started with this magnificent model for prayer. These verses are simply too rich, too powerful, too fundamentally important to our walks with Christ not to examine them carefully... to meditate upon them... and to marinate in them for awhile. If you will commit to come for the month of November, you will never look at these well-known words in the same way again. In fact, I sincerely believe that, by the grace of God, this may very well be the very best lesson on prayer that you have ever heard.

Jesus disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray. And so He taught them. And He will teach us as well if we will listen to this model, take it to heart, and put it into practice. // Next week we will continue this journey by examining what it means to pray "Father, hallowed be your name."