

THE LIFE OF JESUS

How Jesus Taught Us To Pray – Part 2

Matthew 6:1, 5-13 - Jesus said, “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ⁵ And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’”

Praying The Way Jesus Taught Us To Pray

1) We acknowledge the greatness of God.

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...”

2) We desire to see Jesus reigning as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

“your kingdom come...”

3) We want God’s plan to be our plan, not the other way around.

“your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Matthew 7:21 – Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

1 John 2:17 - The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Psalms 37:4 - Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 37:23 - The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.

Praying for God’s will in three areas:

1) We pray for God’s eternal plan to be accomplished.

•This is God’s sovereign will.

Matthew 26:36-39 - Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, “Sit here while I go over there to pray.” ³⁷ He took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. ³⁸ He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” ³⁹ He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”

2) We pray for obedience to God’s commands.

•This is God’s moral will.

Psalms 119:33-40 - Teach me your decrees, O Lord; I will keep them to the end. ³⁴ Give me understanding and I will obey your instructions; I will put them into practice with all my heart. ³⁵ Make me walk along the path of your commands, for that is where my happiness is found. ³⁶ Give me an eagerness for your laws rather than a love for money! ³⁷ Turn my eyes from worthless things and give me life through your word. ³⁸ Reassure me of your promise, made to those who fear you. ³⁹ Help me abandon my shameful ways; for your regulations are good. ⁴⁰ I long to obey your commandments! Renew my life with your goodness.

3) We pray for God’s plan in my daily decisions.

•This is God’s personal will.

Romans 12:1-2 - I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

The more we trust God’s sovereign will, and the more obedient we are to His moral will, the easier it will be to discover His personal will.