

Steps of a Disciple

Part Five - Prayer: Your Direct Connection To God, part C

The Pattern Of Prayer: Matthew 6:5-13

I. What Prayer Is Not

A. Prayer is not intended to impress others, (vs. 5 & 6)

Notice the motivation here, “to be seen by men.” What is your motivation in praying? Remember the Bible tells us that man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart (I Samuel 16:7).

Does this mean that prayers should never be offered publicly? Certainly not. Jesus offered prayers to God the Father publicly. The emphasis here, as it is about giving in verses 1-4, goes directly to motive. Why are you praying and to whom are you praying?

B. Prayer is not memorized ritual, (vs. 7 & 8)

“Jesus reminds us that prayer is an expression of personal relationship, not a religious rite. Pagans rely on ritual; God’s people spontaneously enter the presence of One they know as Heavenly Father.” (THE VICTOR BIBLE BACKGROUND COMMENTARY NEW TESTAMENT)

II. The Model or Pattern of Prayer, (vs. 9-13)

A. Offer To God Our Worship, (vs. 9)

“Our Father in heaven”

Prayers should be directed to God, our heavenly Father, not to man.

“hallowed be your name”

Prayers should begin with reverence, adoration, worship to God. Remember Who it is that we are speaking to.

“Your kingdom come”

Remember and acknowledge that God is a covenant making and covenant fulfilling God. He will keep His promises. Matthew’s gospel is all about God’s promise to send Israel the promised Messiah, the coming King.

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

Prayer should emphasize that it is God’s will and not ours that we seek. We must bow to His desires here in our earthly lives. Jesus, when He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane said, “not my will but thine be done.” (Matthew 26:39)

B. Offer To God Your Requests, (vs. 11-13)

“give us this day our daily bread”

Praying for our necessities is Biblical! Jesus is teaching here that we can and should go to God for our needs. He is the source of meeting those needs. There is a sense of daily dependence on Him. Just as the Israelites received their food daily from God in the wilderness.

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

This verse is talking not about financial indebtedness. Rather it is talking about sin in our lives. Like Jesus, Paul too spoke in financial terms about sin and it’s consequences: Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Jesus reminds us that if we are to ask God to forgive our sin against Him, we must be willing to forgive others of their sins against us.

“And lead us not into temptation”

One who has sought the forgiveness of their past sin should desire to avoid committing sin in the future.

“and lead us not into temptation”

This is the “heart desire and inclination that cause a believer to want to avoid the danger and trouble sin creates. It is the expression of the redeemed soul that so despises and fears sin that it wants to escape all prospects of falling into it, choosing to avoid rather than having to defeat temptation.” (MACARTHUR’S NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY: MATTHEW 1-7, JOHN MACARTHUR, JR., MOODY PRESS, Chicago, IL, 1985)

“but deliver us from evil”

The word “deliver” is a very expressive one, “to break our chains.” The model prayer concludes with a request for deliverance from all evil of whatever kind. ***Do you have such an aversion to sin, or do you like to see how close you can get to it?***