

THE MODEL PRAYER RE-EXAMINED

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Matthew 6:9-15

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Matthew 6:9-15

13 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.

14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Introduction:

We have examined the Lord's Prayer in some detail.

When I started this series, a question was asked that I want to answer in this last part of the series on the Lord's Prayer.

Here is the question:

"Did Jesus Himself follow the model that He gave for His Disciples?"

Introduction:

Before we begin, let me say this: some of the items of the Lord's Prayer would not pertain to Him.

Here is how we will re-examine the Model Prayer and see if Jesus followed it in His prayer of John 17.

So let us begin the comparison of the two.

Our Father which art in heaven

This is the first phrase that we need to consider.

Jesus, in John 17:1, “lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said Father,...”

So the first requirement the Model Prayer gives is to acknowledge the Father in heaven.

Jesus acknowledges God as the Father and the fact that He physically lifted up His eyes to Heaven is an indication that He knew that God was in Heaven.

Our Father which art in heaven

The Model Prayer is often is used in violation of the Lord's admonition against vain repetitions.

Some feel there is value in reciting it over and over in prayer.

This is certainly odd, in view of the fact only one verse separates the admonition and the Model Prayer.

We know from our examination of the Lord's Prayer that Jesus certainly did not do this.

Hallowed be thy name

This is the second requirement of the Model Prayer.

In John 17:1-5, Jesus talks about the glory of the Father.

In Matthew 6:9, the word "hallowed" means to "make holy, sanctify."

The manner in which Jesus addresses the Father illustrates to us how He felt about the Father.

Hallowed be thy name

He upheld the holiness of the Father's Name.

Because Jesus is the Second Personage of the Trinity, He did not think that it was wrong to ask the Father to glorify Him.

Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippians, chapter 2 and verse 6, ***Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.***

Hallowed be thy name

Jesus was not violating any Scripture when He asked the Father to glorify Him.

Because Jesus is part of the Trinity, His Name is to be considered holy and sanctified along with the Father's.

Thy kingdom come

Thy kingdom come emphasizes that sphere over which the Lord reigns.

The believer's major concern in prayerful petition should be God's work.

Before praying about other matters, we should pray for God's cause.

Thy kingdom come

Jesus needs to reign in hearts, lives, homes, churches, and governments.

That should be our great concern.

One day He shall reign in and over all things on earth as ***KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS***, Revelation 19:16.

Thy kingdom come

In the meantime, God's people should pray for His reign to be over more than it is now.

This is even a problem in many churches.

Not every member accepts the reign of Christ over his life.

Consequently, the Lord asks, *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?* (Luke 6:46).

Thy kingdom come

In other words, many are not willing to pray about God's work, because they are not willing to work in it.

Jesus attitude and demeanor all indicated that He wanted God's kingdom to be first and foremost.

Thy will be done

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven is a glorious prospect.

In Heaven God's directive will is done perfectly, but that is not true on earth.

Therefore, there is always a need for more praying along this line.

Also, we cannot expect much progress in this area until we are willing first for God's will to be done in our lives.

Thy will be done

Again, Jesus desire was that the Father's will would always be done.

While it is not specifically mentioned, this is reflected throughout the Lord's Prayer by Jesus' attitude and presentation toward the Father.

While not part of the Lord's Prayer, it is never anywhere clearer than in Matthew 26:39-42.

Thy will be done

Jesus was just hours away from His death, but His desire was still that the Father's will be made manifest.

Jesus lived His entire earthly life in accordance with the Father's will.

Would that we be as willing as Jesus was in His desire to do the Father's will.

Give us this day our daily bread.

I said at the beginning of this lesson that there were aspects of the Model Prayer that did not apply to Jesus.

This is the beginning of those aspects.

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus is not giving any thought to His daily needs.

Therefore, His prayer does not even begin to touch on any physical need.

forgive us our debts

This is the second aspect of the Model Prayer that does not apply to Jesus.

There is nothing that Jesus has done to require His asking for forgiveness for anything.

This part of the Model Prayer is strictly for the saint.

Therefore, I want to go over this part again.

forgive us our debts

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, Matthew 6:12.

To “forgive” means to erase or to wipe the slate clean.

“Debts” refer to failures or sins.

When God forgives, He erases the debt.

He regards it paid.

forgive us our debts

He forgives and forgets.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, 1 John 1:9.

There is the personal need of deliverance from evil.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

forgive us our debts

This part of Matthew 6:13 is a caution and a safeguard against future sins.

It heads off things before there is a need for forgiveness.

Deliverance is available.

forgive us our debts

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, |
Corinthians 10:13.

None of this applies to Jesus, strictly to the saints.

as we forgive our debtors

I feel that it is important enough for us to again go to this aspect of the Model Prayer.

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, Matthew 6:14, 15.

as we forgive our debtors

It is apparent by His comment the spirit of forgiveness is a characteristic of a child of God.

Perhaps the Lord explained this one petition, because there tends to be a weakness toward an unforgiving spirit.

The Lord taught Peter a believer should forgive as often as necessary.

as we forgive our debtors

Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven, Matthew 18:21, 22.

Then the Lord illustrated the principle of forgiveness in a parable found in the same chapter, verses 23-35.

as we forgive our debtors

23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. {talents: a talent is seven hundred and fifty ounces of silver, at a hundred and eleven cents the ounce}

25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

as we forgive our debtors

26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. {worshipped him: or, besought him}

27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

as we forgive our debtors

28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. {pence: the Roman penny is the eighth part of an ounce, which after five shillings the ounce is seven pence halfpenny; about fourteen cents}

29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

as we forgive our debtors

30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

as we forgive our debtors

33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

(KJV)

as we forgive our debtors

Short and brief, this parable teaches that if we do not forgive our brother or sister when we are asked to forgive, God is under no obligation to forgive us when we ask Him for forgiveness.

This is a very serious thing.

If we want God to forgive us of our sins, then we must forgive others as well.

as we forgive our debtors

Peter asked Jesus if seven times was enough times to forgive someone.

Jesus countered by saying seven times seventy.

In other words, we are not limited to the number of times we are to forgive.

This is totally against human nature.

Forgiveness for others can never happen without the aid of the Holy Spirit.

as we forgive our debtors

Also, forgiveness should be *...even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you*, Ephesians 4:32.

It should be *...even as Christ forgave, so also do ye*, Colossians 3:13.

That places the spirit of a believer's forgiveness on a high level.

After all, the Sermon on the Mount is a call to a higher level of ethical and moral conduct.

as we forgive our debtors

A vital part of the Lord's explanation of the principle of forgiveness of daily sins depends much upon an individual's attitude of forgiveness toward others.

Eternal forgiveness or salvation of the spirit is not in question.

Fellowship with God is.

Conclusion:

Thus we have seen that only a small part of the Model Prayer had anything to do with Jesus.

Since it was Jesus Who gave the Model Prayer, it should be followed.

It did not apply to Him as it does to us.

He gave it for us, not for Himself.

Conclusion:

May we ever heed the teachings of the Model Prayer as well as the Lord's Prayer.

Let us pray.