

Prayer 2022 Pt. 1 & 2

Pastor James Foley – Sunday, August 7 & 14, 2022

COMMUNION

- 1) The Wafer Symbolizes the **BODY** of Christ – Broken for Us
- 2) The Juice Symbolizes the **BLOOD** of Christ – Shed for Us All

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NIV)

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

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INTRODUCTION

Dismissal for Nursery ONLY – Children’s Church on Sabbatical throughout August (i.e., sabbatical).

Thank you for joining us! Whether you are here in person or joining via the livestream you are most welcome! Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take notes as you desire. We have much to cover in a rather short space of time.

OPENING REMARKS PT. 1

NOTE 1 – As a student of Scripture I have spent a considerable amount of time in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These four Gospels detail the life and ministry of Christ in vivid detail, including His interactions with His apostolic band (i.e., inner circle of disciples). Thus said...

NOTE 2 – In all of my readings, I have never once read an account wherein these disciples petition Jesus with any of the following: “Lord, teach us to **a)** raise the dead; **b)** cast out demons; **c)** cleanse the leprous; **d)** heal the sick or infirmed; **e)** raise the dead; **f)** proclaim with divine authority!”

NOTE 3 – I have heard such requests from modern believers and church leaders, though such words are never found on the lips of Jesus’ most intimate of followers. Could we be seeking the wrong things? However, in Scripture we do see the disciples petition Christ with the following...

Luke 11:1a (NIV)

1 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray . . .”

NOTE 4 – I find this quite interesting. I have to wonder if they somehow perceived prayer to be the source of Jesus’ power and authority. Let us remember that Christ often pulled away from the masses to pray. I am quite certain they keyed in on this reality and took note in kind. Wondrously...

KEY 2 – As a faithful and loving teacher, Jesus offered instruction per their request. Let us consider His words...

Matthew 6:9–13 (NIV – NKJV)

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 this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

13 And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.”

OPENING REMARKS PT. 2

NOTE 1 – This is the most famous pattern of prayer found in the whole of the Word. I say PATTERN because I posit this is what this teaching was intended to be. I cannot believe it was the intent of Christ for us to simply memorize and mindlessly repeat this prayer (i.e., particularly in light of this preceding text)...

Matthew 6:7

7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

NOTE 2 – It is better for us to consider this teaching as a pattern outlining key elements to include in prayer! How are we to pray? What are we to pray for? This prayer offers succinct answers to these questions, etc. Allow me to demonstrate how I have used this prayer for decades in this fashion. Let us begin...

OUR FATHER

Q. What is the first segment of this prayer? How did Jesus teach us to open our times of prayer?

Matthew 6:9b

9 . . . Our Father . . .

Q. Why is it important to begin by affirming the fatherhood of God?

A1. Firstly, it reminds us as to whom we are praying: our Father (i.e., giving us a definite object). We are not praying to the ether or to the universe, hoping that some nameless entity or celestial force hears our cry! Rather, we are calling upon a definite, specific God whom we are to regard as our heavenly Father.

A2. Secondly, it reminds us as to His nature. Scripture details the nature of God using many images (e.g., Lord, Savior, Redeemer, Rock, Shepherd, etc.), but perhaps none are more endearing and/or tender than FATHER. This term speaks to intimacy and access. We are to regard the Lord as our perfect and supreme Father...

Q. What are the qualities of a good father?

A. Love, compassion, dependability, provision, protection, wisdom, character, etc.

KEY – There is transformative power in opening in this manner (i.e., effectively setting the stage for prayer)...

PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION

A3. Thirdly, it reminds us as to our place before Him. Again, we have been granted a position of access and intimacy as His own. Moreover, I believe the reality of our relationship informs our responsibility before Him. If we are His children, we are therefore subordinate to Him and must concern ourselves with honoring and/or pleasing Him! This orients us to rightly approach Him in prayer!

PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION

IN HEAVEN

NOTE 1 – Once intimacy with the Father is established, it becomes necessary to regard His supremacy. It is not enough to affirm His benevolent care and compassion; we must also recognize His majesty, authority and sovereign dominion...

Matthew 6:9b (Emphasis Mine)

9 . . . Our Father in heaven . . .

NOTE 2 – This is not simply an identification of His location. It is an identification of where everything in the whole of creation is in relation to Him. Ultimately, this is a confession of His exaltation! We do well to consider the following...

- 1) Our Father Reigns Supreme and Is Greater than Your Adversaries
- 2) Our Father Reigns Supreme and Is Greater than Your Circumstances
- 3) Our Father Reigns Supreme and Is Greater than You and Your Desires

NOTE 3 – Scripture abounds with texts that speak to the supremacy of our heavenly Father...

Isaiah 40:12–15, 25–26

12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand,
or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?

Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket,
or weighed the mountains on the scales
and the hills in a balance?

13 Who can fathom the Spirit of the Lord,
or instruct the Lord as his counselor?

14 Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him,
and who taught him the right way?

Who was it that taught him knowledge,
or showed him the path of understanding?

15 Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;
they are regarded as dust on the scales;
he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

25 “To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.

26 Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?

He who brings out the starry host one by one
and calls forth each of them by name.

Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.

PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION

KEY – The whole of this phrase balances intimacy and reverence wonderfully. May our prayers do the same!

HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

Q. What is the next phrase found within Matthew 6?

Matthew 6:9c

9 . . . Hallowed be Your name . . .

NOTE 1 – In my estimation this next phrase is the logical and spiritual culmination of all that has come before. When we take the time to understand and appreciate the care, compassion, power and splendor of the Lord, how can we not be moved to a place of worship?

NOTE 2 – When we declare that God is holy, we profess that there is nothing like Him in the whole of creation. He is transcendent as to His purity and power! There remains no thing and no one like Him. He is separate, unrivaled and unmatched by every conceivable metric...

Q. Who is like unto our God in His _____?

A. Love, compassion, dependability, provision, protection, wisdom, character, splendor, power, dominion, etc.

PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION

NOTE 3 – Heaven recognizes the holiness of God (cf. Isa. 6). To what degree do we?

KEY – I think we do well to realize the following. Before we are given sanction to offer one petition for our earthly needs, we are to recognize His character, nature and working in the earth. There is a place for felt needs and requests, but prayer does not consist solely of such things! In fact, I wonder how much we miss in the Lord because we access His presence so poorly.

YOUR KINGDOM COME...

Q. What is the next phrase found within Matthew 6?

Matthew 6:10

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

NOTE 1 – The kingdom refers to His rule and reign, which manifests perfectly (in this period) ONLY in heaven. Sadly, we live in enemy-occupied territory and there are many other “kingdoms” at work. Humanity, individually and collectively, is at odds with the Lord (cf. Rom. 3:23). Moreover, there are demonic strongholds in operation...

Ephesians 6:12

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

NOTE 2 – When we pray for His kingdom to come, we are praying for God to establish and expand His rule in our midst (i.e., bringing earthly elements into conformity with His perfect heavenly will and purpose). Therefore, there is a certain “revolutionary” aspect to prayer, as this requires the supplanting of heavenly and earthly powers...

KEY 1 – This is why Satan despises prayer in the life of the believer: i.e., your prayer(s) hinder His operation!

NOTE 3 – This is where a knowledge of Scripture is vital as it relates to prayer. How can we pray for the advancement of His will if we are ignorant of what His will is? How can we pray for God to have His way in any particular circumstance if we fail to know His ways? This is why effective prayer is ultimately biblically informed prayer.

PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION (i.e., Select a Need to Illustrate)

KEY 2 – The remainder of the Lord’s Prayer shifts to areas for petition and/or supplication...

DAILY BREAD

Q. What is the next section of the Lord’s Prayer?

Matthew 6:11 (Emphasis Mine)

11 Give us today our **daily bread**.

NOTE 1 – God’s care for you is not limited solely to spiritual matters. Rather, He has concerned Himself with your most basic and fundamental of needs (i.e., and what could be more basic or fundamental than daily sustenance? Bread!). Christ made it clear that God cares for your earthly needs...

Luke 12:22–32

22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life[a]? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

27 “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. 32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

NOTE 2 – Note that we are called to seek God for our “daily” bread. Praying for daily provision forces us to recognize God as our ultimate source, catalyzing humility, faith and a spiritual of reliance. What might this look like in our contemporary society?

PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION

FORGIVE US AS WE FORGIVE

Q. What is the next section of the Lord's Prayer?

Matthew 6:12

12 And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Herein we see forgiveness in a two-fold direction: **a)** pardon for our sin; **b)** pardon for the sin of others.

1) Forgive Me...

NOTE 1 – Herein Christ instills ongoing confession and reflection in the prayer-life of the Christian. We have opportunity to confess known areas of sinfulness (“forgive me”). We also have opportunity to prayerfully reflect upon hidden areas of weakness (i.e., “search me”). Thus, This should be both a humbling and a probing moment in prayer. Moreover...

NOTE 2 – There is power in this type of daily prayer. It keeps our lives free from the influence of sin, guilt, etc...

PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION

2) As I Forgive...

The Lord understand our capacity for bitterness and offense. Thus, He instills within daily prayer an ongoing opportunity for the forgiveness of others. It is so hard for the spiritual cancer of unforgiveness to take root if we are daily releasing this burden unto the Lord...

PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION

LEAD US NOT...DELIVER US

Q. What is the final component of the Lord's Prayer?

Matthew 6:13

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

NOTE 1 – Ours is a fallen world. Thus...

1) We Battle Against Sinister Internal Compulsions (Flesh)

Galatians 5:16–17, 19–21

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

2) We Battle Against Sinister Spiritual Forces

Ephesians 6:10–12

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

NOTE 2 – It is only in the Lord that we can find victory. Hence, this aspect of our daily prayer...

Matthew 6:13

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION

TO THE WORD

Matthew 6:9–13

9 “. . . 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 this day our daily bread.
12 And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
13 And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.”

CONCLUSIONS

NOTE 1 – Feel free to give either in person or online at www.NewLifeBarre.org.

NOTE 2 – Please join us for our weekly Sunday School (9:15am) or Mid-Week Study (6:30pm).

NOTE 3 – August ministry sabbatical for Children’s Church, Women’s Ministry and our Men’s Ministry.

NOTE 4 – Our annual Church BBQ & Baptism Get-Together is taking place after church next Sunday, August 21. Sign-Up sheets for sides and desserts being passed around now, as the church will provide for the meat, etc. Those interested in water baptism are invited to a training today (e.g., meaning of baptism and practicalities).

NOTE 5 – Those who wish to linger in this sanctuary may feel free to do so. This is to be a house of prayer, so those who feel the need to pray may do so as they please. Moreover, I would be more than happy to pray with those who have need(s).

2 Corinthians 13:14

14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.