

LESSONS FROM THE MODEL PRAYER

I. OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.

- A. God is our **Father**.
1. *Acts 17:23-28*. for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: **24** God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. **25** Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. **26** And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, **27** so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; **28** for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'
 2. Truly, He is the Father of all mankind and of everything that exists.
- B. God is in heaven.
1. He is in heaven but He is aware and concerned about what is going on, on earth.
 2. He is higher than us in every way. *Isaiah 55:9*. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.
 3. As an aside on this... this teaches us that the Godhead is a plurality.
 - a) Jesus was on earth telling His disciples to pray to the Father in heaven.
 - b) This seems like common sense but there are people who believe that Jesus and the Father are the same Being.

II. HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME.

- A. Hallowed - greatly revered or respected.
1. We are to respect and revere the very name of God.
 2. Respecting the name goes with respecting the person.
- B. *Exodus 20:7*. "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.
1. While it is true that we no longer live under the Law of Moses, it is also true that if we love God with all our hearts, we will not take his name in vain.
 2. We will not use it in a flippant or even blasphemous way.

III. YOUR KINGDOM COME.

- A. Jesus came to establish a kingdom.
1. *Luke 1:32-33*. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. **33** And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."
 2. *Daniel 2:44*. And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.
 3. *Isaiah 9:6-7*. For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.
- B. He succeeded in doing just that.

1. **Matthew 16:18-19.** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. **19** And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
2. **John 18:36.** Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”
3. **Colossians 1:13.** He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love
4. **Revelation 1:9.** I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

IV. YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

- A. Do we trust God enough to say these words and truly mean them?
- B. His will, will be done.
 1. **Isaiah 55:10-11.** “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, □ And do not return there, □ But water the earth, □ And make it bring forth and bud, □ That it may give seed to the sower □ And bread to the eater, **11** So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; □ It shall not return to Me void, □ But it shall accomplish what I please, □ And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.
 2. This does not mean that everything that happens is caused by God.
 - a) When a child is murdered it is not God’s will.
 - b) Such goes against His will.
 - c) But God’s permissive will allows man to choose... even to do evil.
 - d) It is God’s will to punish evil doers. This He will do.

V. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.

- A. This phrase speaks about God’s providence.
 1. God will give us our daily bread.
 2. **Matthew 6:31-33.** “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **32** For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
- B. However, we also must do our part.
 1. **2 Thessalonians 3:10.** For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.
 2. God does His part by providing a means for us to be fed and it is up to us to work to obtain what He has provided.
- C. This verse also alludes to the need for contentment.
 1. Jesus didn’t tell us to pray for tomorrow’s bread. **Matthew 6:34.** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.
 2. He didn’t pray for great wealth and possessions.
 3. We are to be content with what God would provide for us today.

VI. FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS.

- A. All of us need forgiveness.
 1. Because we all have sin.
 2. **Romans 3:23.** For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 3. All of us are thankful for God’s forgiveness.

- B. But if we are not willing to forgive others, we will not have forgiveness ourselves. *Matthew 18:21-35*. Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” **22** Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. **23** Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. **24** And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. **25** But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. **26** The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ **27** Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. **28** “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ **29** So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ **30** And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. **31** So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. **32** Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. **33** Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ **34** And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. **35** **“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”**

VII. DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION.

- A. God does not tempt man to sin. *James 1:13*. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.
- B. So what does Jesus mean by asking God not to lead us into temptation?
1. The word for “temptation” means “a sore trial” or “to be pierced through with a spear.”
 2. So Jesus is saying that it is permissible to ask God to spare us from severe trials.
 3. We may not always get the answer we want however.

VIII. DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE.

- A. The Evil One is the Devil of course.
1. He is seeking to destroy us. *1 Peter 5:8*. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
 2. He’ll seek to do that in any way possible. *Luke 22:31-32*. And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. **32** But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”
- B. God has made it possible for us to resist and defeat the Devil.
1. *1 Peter 5:9-10*. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. **10** But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.
 2. *James 4:7*. Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.