

Date: July 13, 2025

Title: Our Father Who Art in Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name

Passage: Matthew 6:9-15

Summary:

"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name."

Key Truths:

- Meaning = "Our Father in heaven, our first desire is that you might have preeminence in all things."
- This prayer is a model for all others. Key elements include: Adoration. Supplication. Confession. Intercession Exaltation.
- God invites us into fellowship with Him and others in the body of Christ. The Bible encourages us to pray with and for each other.
- God is your loving father. He is willing to help you. He is all powerful and He is able. He deeply cares for you. He is loving to whom you can come and call as your dearest Father. He is with you wherever you are. So, let's come to Him.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What has been your experience with your father? How is our God the Father similar and different to what you experienced?
- When you pray with others, how can you concentrate fully on what you are saying to God rather than how your prayers sound to others?
- What changes do you need to make in your prayer life?

Context of Passage:

Luke 11:1

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

- John = referring to John the Baptist
- Why ask Jesus how to pray?
 - The disciples saw the connection between His character and ministry with His prayers.

Luke 6:12

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.

Mark 6:46

And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

Luke 22:44

And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Passage:

Matthew 6:9-15

Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

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

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

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

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Key Observations on This Prayer

A. This prayer is given by Jesus as a pattern

- not as an incantation to only recite
 - Nothing magical about the words of the prayer on its own.
- "Pray then like this:"
 - Like = not exact words.
 - Meant to be the model for all other prayers.
- "This prayer is a form of prayer that becomes the model and inspiration for all other prayer, and yet always draws us back to itself as the deepest utterance of our souls before God." (Andrew Murray)
- Elements of prayer
 - Adoration
 - Supplication
 - Confession
 - Intercession
 - Exaltation

B. This prayer should be called more accurately "The Disciple's Prayer"

- Jesus Himself did not pray this prayer
 - "Forgive us our debts"
 - Jesus had no sin so it was not Himself.
- Rather it is a model for a prayer for us.

C. This prayer is divided into sections from God's glory to our good.

- Introduction
- Three petition about God's glory
 - He is holy
 - His will to be done
 - His kingdom to come
- Three petitions about ourselves
 - Our daily need
 - Our relationship with others for need of forgiveness
 - Our spiritual protection

EXPOSITION

OUR FATHER

- This phrasing was shocking to the listeners
- Context:
 - People never previously referred to God as "Father"
 - By Jesus time, religious leaders never used the name of God (Yahweh).
- "Our Father" - Abba (Hebrew word)
 - Term that is used both by children but also adult children to their fathers.

Mark 14:46

And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

- Jesus almost always referred to God as "Father"
 - 16 times mentioned in Sermon on the Mount
 - One exception:
 - Jesus' cry out while on the cross. At that moment, Jesus was separated due to taking our sins on the cross.

John 20:17

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."

- After Jesus' resurrection, resumed using the term "Father"

Galatians 4:6

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

The word "father" answers all the philosophical questions about the nature of God.

- "A father is a person; therefore, God is not a blind force behind the inscrutable machinery of the Universe.
- A father is able to hear; therefore, God is not some impersonal being, aloof from all our troubles and problems.
- And above all, a father is predisposed by His love and relationship to give a careful, attentive ear to what His child says.
 - God is this way. From a father, a child can surely expect a reply."

OUR

- implies communal aspect.
 - This prayer is for the whole family of God.
- Compare: a time for private prayers.

Matthew 6:6

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

- But there is a time to pray with other believers.
- We are not to pray on our own strength. God invites us into fellowship with Him and others in the body of Christ.
- Application: Pray with your spouse for 5 minutes a day.
 - Use Scripture to pray.
- The Bible encourages us to pray with and for each other.

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

"In prayer, I am not alone. I am with the members of God's family, which is also my family. My weak prayer is caught up into the great stream of prayer that goes up forever from God's family. The strength of my prayer is that it is not simply mine; that the moment I fall upon my knees I am no longer an individual man or woman talking to God, but a member of the family of God, a sharer in that human nature which Christ has carried to the right hand of God." (Spiros Zodhiates)

- As we pray with others, we together go before God's throne of grace.

Clarification:
Misperception:

- Some people interpret the passage that God is the universal father of all.

John 8:39-44

They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing the works your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

- If you have never repented of your sins and placed your father in Jesus as Lord and Savior: Satan is your father.
 - You either serve God or the devil.
 - You are either a child of God or a child of Satan.

WHO ART IN HEAVEN

- "In heaven"
- Reminds us of God's greatness and wonder.
 - He is transcendent, different than any other.
 - He is unlimited power and of unlimited resources

Isaiah 6:1-4

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

- God disposes of His resources in such a way that is best for us. What we need, not what we want.

Psalms 84:11

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

- "In heaven": This phrase addresses two lies that often keep us from praying:
 - God doesn't care about me
 - God isn't big enough to address my problem

HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

- Prayer for God's honor
- "Hallowed" = also translated "holy" or "sanctified"

1 Peter 3:15

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

- What does it mean to sanctify God's name in our hearts?
 - Here: Peter means "Give God the place in your heart that He deserves."
 - Set God above all things.
- Rephrase:
 - "Our Father in heaven, our first desire is that you might have preeminence in all things"
 - Take first place in all things in my heart.
- John Piper: This petition is the foundation for the rest of the prayer
 - God's kingdom comes for His name
 - His will be done for His name
 - We ask in His name
 - We ask for protection in His name.

As children of God, we have a great privilege to pray to our Father in heaven.

- Unfortunately, some do not feel confident because they have never had a human father who was good or present. Consider God is not like any human.
- Biblical father:
 - One who has a passion for His family who has warmth for His family.
 - One who is loving and kind and gracious.
 - One who is willing to hear from you and is not too busy for you.

"If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all. For everything that Christ taught is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God." (J.I. Packer)

- God is your loving father
 - He is willing to help you.
 - He is all power and He is able.
 - He deeply cares for you.
 - He is loving who you can come and call as your dearest Father.
 - He is with you wherever you go.