“Life in the Kingdom: Prayer’s Protocol, Part 2”

Matthew 6:9-13

(Notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 2/5/23)

 How kind is Jesus to reconcile us to the Father! That’s what the Gospel is all about!

How kind is Jesus to instruct us in how to have the best relationship possible with the Father! That’s what the Sermon on the Mount is all about! The Father welcomes us into His presence as a loving father welcomes his dear children. The Christian can come to the Father with a renewed heart, ready to glorify His name.

 Even though today’s study is part 2 of the model Jesus gave for prayer, don’t think for a second that it is any less important. All of life is to be offered to God, so all of life is sacred, even the seemingly mundane, such as bread. In these verses, God is saying, “Come to Me with your daily needs. I love you that much.”

 Verse 11 is a prayer for God’s **PROVISION** of literal food and spiritual food, everything necessary to live for God. (Q1) This is key: I’m not sufficient within myself for these things. We are meant to depend on God for our sustenance (Matt. 6:31-32; Prov. 30:8-9). If you think you’re a self-made man, you’re WRONG! (Deut. 8:18) His provision does not give you a license for laziness. We still need to work hard with what He has given us. Just give the thanks and the glory to Him! Even our labor is enabled by God. Christians live with an awareness that everything needed to live for God comes from God. (Q2)

 Verse 12 is a prayer for God’s **PARDON**. The New Living Translation puts it this way: “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us.” Let’s face it: even the redeemed still sin. There is a battle within me: loyalty to God vs. loyalty to myself. Paul expressed it well in Rom. 7:19. To put it another way, sometimes God’s children come into His presence tracking mud on their shoes! This doesn’t affect our standing with God, but it does affect our communion with God. (Q3) Our Father wants His children to enjoy relationship with Him, not live with the sorrow of relational distance from Him. When David sinned, he wrestled with this same thing (Ps. 51:1-3, 11-12). We’re talking about mixed motives, aren’t we? Mixed motives are common for a fallen people. The good news is this: when we realize how much we have been forgiven, our forgiveness spills out on others. (Q4) (Q6) God sees His own image reflected in His forgiving children. Salvation brings liberty from sin’s penalty and sanctification brings liberty from sin’s power over our lives. God is gradually chipping off those parts of us that don’t look like Jesus!

 Verse 13 is a prayer for **PROTECTION**. It’s a prayer for “preventative medicine.” It’s a prayer for protection from Satan’s lies and his influence. Satan wants us to believe that self-will and self-rule are the way to live. He doesn’t want us to have reverence for God’s name, he doesn’t want us to be preoccupied with God’s Kingdom, and he most certainly doesn’t want us obedient to God’s will. In 2023 we are under attack! WE NEED GOD and His protection. (Q5) Peter warns us in 1Pet. 5:8-9 to actively avoid temptation. Paul warns us in 1Cor. 16:13-14 to be on guard. Want some more practical steps in this area?

* Live a life of active obedience (living within God’s boundaries).
* Meet often with other believers (Heb. 10:24-25)
* Avoid the wrong stuff!
* Study the Word (Ps. 119:9-11)
* And don’t get proud of your record of defeating temptation!

All of our needs for provision, pardon, and protection are based on a preoccupation with God’s glory. This doxology in verse 13 may have been added after the original manuscript. Even so, it is appropriate to give God glory! Prayer begins and ends with God! We ask for His grace as we live for that final Day when we see Him face to face. May Your name be glorified, Father. May Your will be done in our lives as we reach out to others for You. Amen.

**QUESTIONS**:

1. What has God provided for you?
2. How do the words of verse 11 find relevance in the lives of disciples whose “daily bread” is almost always assured, if not taken for granted?
3. Explain this important theological concept in your own words.
4. Conversely, “when you forget the grace that you’ve been given, it becomes very easy to respond to the people around you with nongrace.” (Paul David Tripp in New Morning Mercies, Jan. 19). How can we **never forget** the grace we have been given?
5. “As God’s child, you are never left to battle on your own.” (New Morning Mercies, Jan. 9) How does God protect us? (Hint: read Eph. 6:13-18)
6. Sometimes the hardest person for me to forgive is **me**. Does this ring true for anybody else out there? But if God can forgive me (and He has!), it is wrong for me to hold onto that unforgiveness. Heb. 12:2 helps me see clearly again. I pray it will help you, too.

“Wonderful Grace of Jesus” (Haldor Lillenas)

1. Wonderful grace of Jesus,
Greater than all my sin;
How shall my tongue describe it,
Where shall its praise begin?
Taking away my burden,
Setting my spirit free;
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.
	* Refrain:
	Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,
	Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;
	Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,
	All-sufficient grace for even me!
	Broader than the scope of my transgressions,
	Greater far than all my sin and shame;
	Oh, magnify the precious Name of Jesus,
	Praise His Name!