

Matthew 6:9-13

“How to talk to Dad”

I.) Intro.

II.) Vs. 9 Petition

III.) Vs. 10-12 Intercession

IV.) Vs. 13 Worship

I.) Intro.

Little eight year old Danny Dutton was asked in his 3rd grade homework assignment to explain God and prayer; *“God’s second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, as some people, like preachers, pray other times beside bedtime. God doesn’t have time to listen to the radio or TV on account of this. As He hears everything, not only our prayers, there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has a way to turn it off. God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere. Which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn’t go around wasting His time by going over your parents head and asking for something they said you couldn’t have.”*

Three Keys to effective prayer that each start with “S”:

1.) Vs. 6 **SECRET**: This verse carries two ideas in regards to secrecy.

A.) First it should be **private**. That is not to say that a person ought not to offer any public prayers but that, most of our time of communion ought to be private. The word for “room” here is used for a store room where treasures were kept. It is in this private place where we are less distracted by the outside and less likely to pray in order to be seen by others.

B.) Second it says “***your* Father**”, it must be **personal**. Again the idea here is that we come to our Father personally. He is our Father.

2.) Vs. 7 **SIMPLICITY**: Solomon said in Ecc. 5:2 “...***God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few.***” We don’t need to convince God of what is best for us He knows, all we need to do is confess what He already knows to be true and thank Him for His answer which is always going to be in our best interest. Most prayer in the Bible are very short so a person does not need to spend hours on their knees every day repeating the same thing over and over.

3.) Vs. 8 **SINCERITY**: Whatever we say to the Lord we ought to be sincere for He knows what we need before we ask. When you enter into prayer ask the Holy Spirit to show you your own heart that He will show you what you already possess in Christ. Most the time we ask God for things that we already possess in Christ.

Prayer is made up of three things **worship, intercession and petition** it begins and ends with worship, it intercedes for Gods kingdom, and petitions for our daily needs. This model prayer deals with our **past, present and future**, as well as dealing with our need for **provision, forgiveness and guidance**. ***The prayer contains anything and everything we will ever be concerned with, all within 65 words which take only 30 seconds to utter!*** It is amazing how complicated we make prayer. I have read the classics on prayer:

- The seven book series by E.M. bounds which consists of some 1,063 pages
- Andrew Murray’s book entitled “*Christ in the school of prayer*” which consists of 252 pages.
- **Yet as good as those books are Jesus’ is better as it is all we need in 65 words!** Allow me **three general observations**:

1.) As you read through this prayer you will notice the **absence of all singular pronouns**: NOT ONE; “I, me, or my’s”. It is all “us and our’s”! Prayer is by its very nature others centered, yet still concerned with our cares just not ours alone!

2.) This is not the only time that this prayer is recorded in the Bible you will find it mentioned again in Luke 11:2-4. The prayer in Luke 11 did not happen at the same time as this one in Matt. 6: 9-13. In fact it happens some two years later. Saints at the beginning of His ministry Jesus takes these disciples up on a small mountain and teaches all about prayer, then two years later after having observed Jesus in action, watching Him pray they again ask Him “*Lord, teach us to pray,..*” and He again responded with the same model prayer. Folk’s that tells us that there was **no advance course of prayer.**

3.) Lastly this prayer ought to serve as **a reminder of SIX benefits that are now ours in Christ:**

A.) Vs.9 God’s person

B.) Vs.10 God’s purpose

C.) Vs.11 God’s provision

D.) Vs.12 God’s pardon

E.) Vs.13 God’s protection

D.) Vs.13 God’s pre-eminence

Everything we need is in Christ and it all starts with our **relationship** too Him through Jesus.

II.) Vs. 9 Petition

Vs. 9 This prayer starts out with the truth of relationship.

A.) The word “Father” here is very interesting word in light of the names for God.

1.) Elohim = **The strong One.**

2.) El Shaddai = **The Mighty One**.

3.) Yahweh = **The covenant name which means “I Am that I Am”**.

Yet Jesus doesn't use any of those words, instead He uses the word “Abba” which is best translated “*Daddy or Papa*”. Folk's this revelation reveals to us that God has not changed what is His character His nature, what has changed, is the nature of our heart to God's character and nature. The question people need to ask themselves is not whether or not they “*know*” God but “*how they know God*”; is He their Daddy?

B.) Note His location, “*in heaven*”: The word heaven is in the plural form and is “*heavens*”. God is far above yet everywhere at once. I relate to Him because He is my Dad, yet I worship Him because of Who He is. There is that great line in C.S. Lewis' book the “*Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*” where the children are asking the beaver about Aslaim and ask if He is safe and the answer comes back, “***No, but He is good***” .

C.) Everything hinges upon this relationship but notice that “our Dad's” name is “Hallowed”. The word means to “make holy” and names in the bible always stand for the character of the person. Our Dad's essential character is Holy and reminds us before we start asking God for things that ultimately we represent Him!

III.) Vs. 10-12 Intercession

Vs. 10 In this verse Jesus introduces us to the essential purpose in prayer: “***Your kingdom come Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.***” This is the second of six petitions in this prayer.

The first three affirm Gods glory:

- Vs.9 His holiness
- Vs.10 The coming of His kingdom
- Vs.10 The obedience to His will

Prayer ought to always have the greatest amount of passion for Gods glory and agenda; His Name, His kingdom, His will always ought to be our greatest desire. G. Campbell Morgan says; *“Prayer is not first of all a means by which we get something for ourselves; it is rather a method of helping God to get something for Himself.”* Pastor Chuck says; *“True prayer begins with us seeking to line up with Gods purposes; never trying to change what He wants to do.”*

Vs.11 Next we move to our personal needs, where we see three petitions for our good. Again there are no personal pronouns, as it is **NOT**, “Give me my bread” it is “Give **US OUR** bread”.

Jesus says we need **three basic things**:

- Vs.11 Bread for our bodies
- Vs.12 Forgiveness for our souls
- Vs.13a Protection for our hearts and minds

Jesus does not say give us our monthly or yearly bread but that is how a great many of us pray always fretting about something that has not happened yet. Bread refers to our daily provisions thus Jesus is the bread of life, God would have us be dependent upon Him daily for our provisions!

Vs.12 We have another great need, *“Forgiveness for our souls.”* It would appear by this passage that we only are forgiven based upon our forgiving of others. But the order of this clearly shows that forgiveness of others can only occur as we have been forgiven. Eph. 4:32 tells us *“be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”* We forgive because of what Christ has forgiven in us not the other way. The difference between Christianity and all other religions is it is found on the basis of how we are forgiven. **Only in Christianity is a person forgiven on the works of another.** All other religions it is based upon our own works!

Vs.13a The last of our petitions is again for a personal needs. The word “temptation” does not mean to “*be drawn into sin*” but refers to “*testing*”. To put this another way it could read “*leave us not into testing.*” Oh Father put us there but don’t keep us there! We are weak creatures full of failure, there is a lot of wisdom in praying Lord don’t leave me in testing! The reason for this that we have an enemy we need to be delivered from, satan.

IV.) Vs. 13 Worship

Vs.13b Finally this model prayer ends in a threefold ascription of praise:

- Kingdom
- Power
- Glory

Paraphrasing this prayer it might sound in today’s wording like: “***Heavenly Holy Dad, You are holy, and You always do right in all Your works. Holy Dad, I only want to be in Your presence, and for Your presence to be felt here in the world. Conform my life to Your plan, I yield to You. Give me only those things this day which cause growth in my life with You; both spiritual and physical. Holy Dad, I give You all those things that would hinder me from growing closer to You, and I let go of anything others owe me, as this would hinder Your love from operating through me. Holy Dad, keep me from the things that would stumble me, and render me in bondage to the devil. For all I desire is for You to be glorified in my life, and for Your power to work through me for Your glory forever. So be it!***”