

## Matthew 6:9-13

### “Christ In The School Of Prayer”

#### I.) Intro.

#### II.) Vs. 9 Petition

#### III.) Vs. 10-12 Intercession

#### IV.) Vs. 13 Worship

#### I.) Intro.

This is the last Sunday of 2014 and we leave behind the old year and look forward to the hope of a new year I thought I'd offer the most effective way to ensuring 2015 is far better than 2014, PRAYER. In Matthew chapter 6 Jesus speaks in the “Sermon on the Mount” about three keys to prayer all starting with the letter “S”: **Three Keys to effective prayer:**

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

A.) **Private**. That is not saying that a person ought not to offer any public prayers only that our prayers of communion ought to be private. The word for “room” is used for a store room where treasures were kept. In a private place we are less distracted by the outside and less likely to pray in order to be seen by others.

B.) **Personal**. It says “*your Father*”, which tells us that they should be **personal**; 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 which will be for His glory. We don't

need to spend hours every day repeating the same thing over and over. **Prayer is not information time it is action time!**

3.) Vs. 8 **SINCERITY**: Take some time as you enter into prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to show you your own heart, ask Him to 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** and this model prayer that Jesus told His disciple's in chapter 6 verses 9-13 made of these three things. As we read these words of Jesus it also deals with our **past, present and future**, as well as dealing with our need for **provision, forgiveness and guidance**. This model prayer contains anything and everything we will ever be concerned with in 65 words. It is amazing how complicated we make prayer. There are **three general observations of this model prayer**:

- 1.) This prayer contains **NO singular pronouns**: There isn't one, "**I, me, or my's**". Instead there are only "**us and our's**"! This informs us that prayer is "**others centered**" while still being concerned with our cares, they just aren't ours alone!
- 2.) This is **NOT the only time that this prayer is recorded in the Bible**: The prayer is mentioned again in Luke chapter 11 verses 2-4 but the model prayer in Luke chapter 11 did not happen at the same time as the one recorded here. The model prayer of Luke chapter 11 happens over two years later. At the beginning of Jesus' ministry He 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, seeing that prayer was the source of all that He did here on earth they ask Him "*Lord, teach us to pray,..*" These disciples were obviously looking for some **advance course of prayer** but Jesus did not say; "*Well, two years ago I taught you all the basics, now let me*

give you the real stuff that prayer is made of!” Saint’s this is all of the “stuff” on prayer.

3.) **This prayer serves as a model not only of how to pray but also of all the 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 and then **recognizing** what is ours through that relationship.

**II.) Vs. 9 Petition**

Vs. 9 The model prayer starts out with what many have called the invocation, it is the truth of relationship. **Our prayer depends upon the significance of our relationship; if a person has no relationship with God than they have no right to call on Him.**

A.) The word “**Father**” 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”.

Jesus didn’t use any of these names instead He uses the word “**Abba**” a word that is NOT spiritually profound or theological, it is the word best translated “**Daddy or Papa**”. Is God no longer the ALL Powerful or All Mighty? God has not changed He is still true to His character His nature but the use of the word “Father” reveals that what has changed, is **our heart** towards Him! There are people who they say they know God, but is He their Daddy? A child can walk right up to their father and say; “*Dad I’m hungry*” and get something to eat. But a stranger can’t just do that because they don’t have a relationship with that child. He is not “our father” He is “our Dad” we know Him personally.

B.) His location, “***in heaven***”: The word “*heaven*” is in the plural form and should read “*heavens*” as He is far beyond all of what we are conscience of. Jesus says, “*Our heavenly Dad*” is far above yet everywhere at once; He is reigning in glory. We relate to Him because He is our 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 about Aslaim the Lion. They ask if He is safe and the answer comes back, “*No, but He is good*” That is what is pictured by these words “*in heaven*”.

C.) The next thing about “Our Dad” is ***His holy character***: “*Hallowed be Your name*” which is not a word that we use today in our language but it means to “*make holy*” or “*let Your name be made Holy*”. Names in biblical times stood for the character of the person, people were named for their character or attributes. Jesus, reminding us that ***our Dad’s essential character is Holy***. When we say the words “*hallowed be your name*” it reminds us before we start asking God for things that ultimately we represent Him for who He is!

### **III.) Vs. 10-12 Intercession**

Vs. 10 Jesus moves from the “***petition***” part of the prayer to the “***intercession***” part of the model prayer. Also Jesus takes us from ***the person and character of God to His purpose***: “*Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*” Notice how Jesus modes for us the emphasis in our communication in prayer with regards to “purpose” is not essentially our purpose but God’s as we note that of the six petitions in this prayer the first three affirm Gods glory:

- 1.) Vs.9 His holiness
- 2.) Vs.10 The coming of His kingdom
- 3.) Vs.10 The obedience to His will

***What we learn from Jesus is that the right kind of prayer must always have the greatest***

***amount of passion for Gods glory and agenda as we want His Name, His kingdom, His will***

*always be our greatest desire.* G. Campbell Morgan wrote; “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 The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the petition the focus on our personal needs, **three petitions for our good.**

Again notice that there are **no personal pronouns**, it is **NOT** “Give me **MY** bread” it is “Give **US OUR** bread”. Jesus says there are **three essentials for our good:**

- 1.) Vs.11 **Bread for our bodies**
- 2.) Vs.12 **Forgiveness for our souls**
- 3.) Vs.13a **Protection for our hearts and minds**

There is nothing wrong with prayer that lifts up our need to God but notice though Jesus does **NOT** say give us our **monthly or yearly bread.** Much of our prayers are worrying about something that has not happened yet. There is no doubt “BREAD” refers to our daily physical provisions, but I believe since Jesus said He is the bread of life, (John 4:32-34) that it goes beyond the physical into the spiritual. Jesus alone meets our deepest hunger both physically and spiritually. Jesus in this model prayer reveal to us that, God would have us be dependent upon Him daily for our provisions!

Vs.12 All of humanity has a great need for “*forgiveness for our souls.*” Some people look at these words and say 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. Paul wrote the same order in Ephesians 4:32 saying, “*be kind to one another; tenderhearted, forgiving one another; **just as God in Christ forgave you.***” That is the picture of forgiveness, we forgive because of what Christ has forgiven in us not the other way. The difference between Christianity

and all other religions 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 final petition for our personal good is “**protection for our hearts and minds**”. The word “*temptation*” does **NOT** mean to be **drawn into sin** but rather **testing**. Furthermore the word “**lead**” it can be rendered “**leave**”. So it could be read “**LEAVE us not into TESTING.**”

Bring us there for our benefit but don't keep us there! There is a lot of wisdom in praying, “*Lord don't leave me in testing!*” Jesus tells us the reason for this part of the prayer as *we have an enemy we need to be delivered from, SATAN.*

#### **IV.) Vs. 13 Worship**

Vs.13b The final aspect of this model prayer is a **threefold ascription of praise for God's:**

- 1.) **Kingdom**
- 2.) **Power**
- 3.) **Glory**

There are those who love this section so much that they would just repeat the words every day without ever looking at what Jesus was communicating about how to communicate. Folks, that's like having a smart phone without a battery. Sure you can admire the cell phone but it wasn't designed as a piece of art it was designed to make communication work. That's what this prayer is all about. So here is **how it may sound as an actual functioning prayer:**

***“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, & 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!”***