

The Disciples' Prayer

Lesson 1

I. Introduction

A. The Background

1. The Sermon on the Mount reveals the standards of the Kingdom
2. Matt. 5 – the character and witness of the citizens of the Kingdom
3. Jesus concluded chapter 5 by demanding perfection (5:48)
4. Therefore, He warns about the heart's propensity for self-deception (6:1)
5. Be perfect (5:48) but Be careful (6:1)
6. All acts of righteousness must be preserved from showmanship
 - a. Giving (2-4)
 - b. Praying (5-15)
 - c. Fasting (16-18)
7. Chapter 6 deals with religious hypocrisy
8. A hypocrite deliberately uses religion to cover up his sins and promote his own gain – Greek word means ‘an actor who wears a mask’

B. The Model Prayer

1. To teach us how we should pray not what we should pray
2. Not to be recited thoughtlessly
3. The Disciples' Prayer
4. Not pray in these words but pray in this manner
5. To teach us both the *manner and method* of how to pray and the *matters* for which to pray.
6. Use this prayer as a pattern not as a substitute

C. There are six (6) petitions in the prayer

1. The first three concern God directly
 - a. His Name
 - b. His Kingdom
 - c. His Glory

2. The next three deal with man
 - a. Our daily needs
 - b. Our sins
 - c. Our temptations
3. The prayer deals with both our spiritual and our physical needs

D. The Many Facets of The Disciples' Prayer

1. It reveals the relationship we have with God

"Our Father".....Father/child relationship
"Hallowed by Thy Name".....Deity/worshipper relationship
"They Kingdom Come".....Sovereign/subject relationship
"Thy will be done".....Master/servant relationship
"Give us this day our daily bread".....Benefactor/beneficiary relationship
"Forgive us our debts".....Savior/sinner relationship
"Lead us not into temptation".....Guide/pilgrim relationship

2. It defines the spirit in which we are to pray

"Our".....an unselfish spirit
"Father".....a family spirit
"Hallowed be Thy name".....a reverent spirit
"They Kingdom come".....a loyal spirit
"Thy will be done".....a submissive spirit
"Give us this day our daily bread".....a dependent spirit
"Forgive us our debts".....a penitent spirit
"Lead us not into temptation".....a confident spirit
"Thine is the Kingdom".....a humble spirit
"and the power".....a triumphant spirit
"and the glory".....an exultant spirit

3. It reveals two elements for our prayers

First Element – *"Hallowed by Thy Name," "Thy Kingdom come," "Thy will be done"*

Second Element – *"Give us this day our daily bread," "Forgive us our debts," "Lead us not into temptation"*

- A. The first 3 elements deal with God and His glory
 The second 3 elements deal with man and his needs

- B. The first 3 elements show the purpose of prayer
The second 3 elements show the means of prayer
- C. The first 3 elements show that: first of all, God is a Father, then a King, then a master

The second 3 elements show that: as a Father, He gives us bread; as a King He forgives our debts and pardons us; as a Master, He leads us not into temptation

4. The purpose of all prayer

This model prayer seeks to glorify God, to lift up His name and to exalt His holiness. Prayer is to focus on God.

John 14:13 – *“and whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”*

The reason we pray, and the reason God answers is to put His glory on display. His glory is the issue.