

THE DISCIPLES' PRAYER

Introduction:

*Most of Christendom knows this part of Scripture as the "Lord's Prayer" in Matthew 6:9-13.

Matthew 6:9-13 - After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Matt. 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. Matt. 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread. Matt. 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Matt. 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

*This passage comes from Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount", where Jesus is giving His disciples instructions on how to pray a model prayer.

*These instructions in Matt. 6:9-13 are often mistaken as the "Lord's Prayer". The problem with this is the Lord Jesus Christ could never proclaim these words because He was sinless.

*Jesus Christ is the sinless Lamb of God, Who had no sin and needed no forgiveness of sins.

*In the first half of this Chapter 6, Jesus is dealing with three particular areas on how His believers (the Little Flock) are to show their righteousness: ❶ In charitable deeds (alms), ❷ In prayer, and ❸ In fasting.

*This prayer is to the Jewish believers only and was not intended for the heathen Gentiles to follow. In fact, I don't see many people today living by the Sermon on the Mount's standards that Jesus was preaching back then.

**Jesus starts off with how to pray with sincerity.

Matthew 6:5 - And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

1. Jesus is warning His disciples not to be like the hypocrites, mainly the Pharisees, who love to pray in public so they can be seen by men.
2. They are not to place themselves in public areas so that others will see them praying and be impressed by their deep religious devotion.
3. Jesus is saying, if their love for being noticed is the only motive in prayer, then being noticed is the only reward they will receive.

Luke 14:11 - For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

4. Jesus says when a person prays like that, he has his reward and gets what he wants - to be seen by men. Praying is to be done primarily in private and not for show as in Verse 6.

Matthew 6:6 - But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

1. Jesus is not condemning public prayer and saying it is wrong. The motive here is to get with God one on one. The point is not where we pray, but why we pray to our heavenly Father.

2. We need to not read too much into this verse by using it to prohibit public prayer. The early church met together for praying collectively for certain matters.
3. The real reward will be given to the Christian believer of God at the Judgment Seat of Christ as a real person of prayer.

Matthew 6:7 - But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

1. Prayer should not consist of vain repetitions. This means saying empty and meaningless words over and over again without real feeling.
2. God is not impressed by multiplying many words. God wants to hear your sincere expressions of the heart.
3. We must avoid the danger of reciting routine prayers without making sure it comes from the heart. Prayer should be marked with sincerity and brevity where God wants to hear from you.
4. Unfortunately, some believe if a prayer is uttered long enough and often enough, then it will have a greater impact.

Matthew 6:8 - Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

1. Since our Father knows the things we have need of even before we ask, then why pray?
The answer is that in prayer, we acknowledge our need and dependence on God.
2. In this context, these Jewish believers will be on the run during the Tribulation. Antichrist and his followers will be chasing them and the system that Antichrist will have won't allow the Jews to purchase or buy food.
3. But they will know that "your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, even before ye ask him".

THREE FACTS ABOUT THIS PRAYER IN MATTHEW 6:9-13

- ❶ Even though we commonly call it the "Lord's Prayer", it should be called the "Disciples Prayer".
- ❷ Jesus Christ never intended for His disciples to repeat this prayer word for word, over and over again.
- ❸ This prayer was never meant for people living in this Dispensation of Grace today.

*This Lord's Prayer makes more sense about what the Jewish believers will endure in the 7-year Tribulation time than it does to us today in the Dispensation of Grace.

*This is not necessarily a Christian prayer, but a Jewish believer's prayer by its content. It was never to be used in a mindless ritualistic way.

THE PRAYER:

Matthew 6:9 - After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

1. "After this manner therefore pray ye:" Here Jesus is giving out principles, or guidelines, for what His Jewish followers should include in their daily prayers as they will go through the 7-Year Tribulation - while waiting for the Millennial Kingdom to start.
2. "Our Father" - God is the Father of Israel and this was the prayer for the nation Israel and its covenants. They were considered the children of God. At this time, Gentiles had no relationship with God - only Israel did.

Isaiah 64:8 - But now, O LORD, thou *art* our father; we *are* the clay, and thou our potter; and we all *are* the work of thy hand.

3. "which art in heaven" - Christ wanted them to have the mindset of looking for His return to earth in the future. This is where God's throne is and here today in heaven.
4. "Hallowed be thy name" - Hallowed means "holy" and Jesus is saying that the name of God is very important in God's program for Israel. They were to make God's name known to the Gentiles (the heathen).

Ezekiel 36:19-23 - And I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them. Eze. 36:20 And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These *are* the people of the LORD, and are gone forth out of his land. Eze. 36:21 But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went. Eze. 36:22 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not *this* for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. Eze. 36:23 And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I *am* the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

Matthew 6:10 - Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.

1. This is the kingdom that the Jewish believers will be praying about during the Tribulation period. During that time, the Israelites will be under great persecution from the Antichrist.
2. "Thy kingdom come" is when Christ returns in His glory and establishes His total authority on earth after defeating Antichrist.
3. We today are not looking for a kingdom on earth. We are waiting for the Rapture when Jesus Christ takes us off this earth and takes us to heavenly places.
4. "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." This is a divine definition of the Millennial Kingdom. The Jewish people have an earthly hope and not necessarily looking forward to going into Heaven. We today are looking to be the heavenly people of God, the Body of Christ members.

Matthew 6:11 - Give us this day our daily bread.

1. The Jewish Little Flock remnant, while in the Tribulation, will need to be fed on a daily basis. They will be under great persecution and will flee to the mountains. The last half of the 7 Year Tribulation, they will not be able to buy any food.

Revelation 12:6 - And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days.

2. They will be desperate, but God will provide for them when they flee to the wilderness to be fed there.

Revelation 2:17 - He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*.

3. The reason that God does this is because they cannot buy or get any food. They refuse to get that mark from the evil one - Satan. But, God will provide for them.

Matthew 6:12 - And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

1. Our Lord Jesus Christ could not have prayed this, because Christ had no sin to be forgiven. This is why it should not be called the "Lord's Prayer", but the "Disciples Prayer" to their Jewish brethren.
2. In Matthew 6:14-15, it says it even more clearly. "*For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: Matt. 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*"
3. That is Law, not Grace. That was a conditional promise. Today, we are forgiven by the shed blood of Jesus Christ - the finished work of Christ. We forgive other's sins because we have had our sins forgiven by Christ.

Colossians 2:13 - And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Ephesians 4:32 - And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Matthew 6:13 - And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

1. "And lead us not into temptation" is in reference of testing or a trial to the Jewish people living in the Tribulation period. The Little Flock remnant will be strongly tempted to cave in to Antichrist's system, in order to survive.

Revelation 3:10 - Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

2. We know God does not tempt us with evil in James 1:13 - "*Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*"

*This is about the tempting in the Tribulation period of the Jews.

3. "but deliver us from evil" - the evil one, Antichrist. If they obey God, then He will protect them. We can thank God that we don't have to pray this prayer. We will be delivered from the evil one also.
4. "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." - It is interesting that you won't find these last words in the NIV or RCC Bible. This is why the KJV is the most authentic and inspired Word of God translation.
5. This ending of words actually is the well known Jewish doxology.

I Chronicles 29:11 - Thine, O LORD, *is* the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all *that is* in the heaven and in the earth *is thine*; *thine is* the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

*This last statement appears to be looking beyond the Millennial Kingdom to the eternal Kingdom.

*In Closing:

*The principle here is that someday, God the Father will rule over everything. God is in control today - but in that day, all those enemies will be put aside and He will rule forever.

*That is the true meaning of the Disciples' Prayer. In its context, it becomes a very meaningful and beautiful prayer. We find the actual Lord's Prayer to the believers in the Book of John, Chapter 17. This is the Lord's intercessory prayer where Christ is interceding for all of us in heaven.