

# The Sermon on the Mount

DEVOTIONAL STUDIES FROM THE  
MEN'S MORNING FELLOWSHIP

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

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

Matthew 6:13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer seems to move from Heaven to earth:

1. In verses nine and ten, you have a sense of being seated with God in heaven as you talk with Him in prayer.
2. That sense changes, in verse eleven, and it's like God is standing next to you as you talk to Him, in prayer, about issues on the earth.

Think of it: You can live your life as if you are seated in heaven with God. **Every spiritual resource in heaven is available to you.**

- being changed to bring change -

We're looking at the disciple's prayer in two sessions – this week as if He were standing next to you on the earth.

Spiritually speaking, you are seated right next to your Dad, in heaven. It's not my original idea. The apostle Paul said the same thing, in his letter to the Church at Ephesus:

Ephesians 2:6 [God] raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

Physically, you are on the earth. Jesus gave His disciples a perspective on their journey from earth to heaven: Live as though Dad were standing right next to you!

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

Scholars have a tough time translating these words. The particular word **daily** is only found here and in Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer – nowhere else in Greek literature. It can mean both *today's bread* and *tomorrow's bread*. So, which is it?

*It's probably both!* If you're praying in the morning, you need today's bread. If you're praying at night, you need tomorrow's bread. The point is that you live in total dependence upon your **Father** to provide what you need on earth.

You can't help but be reminded of the **bread** God provided on a **daily** basis back in the Old Testament. After He delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt, He gave them manna from heaven. They were to go out each morning to gather it; and they gathered twice as much just before the Sabbath Day. Everyone had enough; there was no lack.

**Bread** is a basic staple of life. In the context of Jesus teaching you how to pray, you are to be confident that your **Father** knows what you need and will provide it.

You can draw at least two stunning conclusions from this:

1. If He doesn't provide something... *Then you don't need it!*
2. He will sometimes provide a kind of **bread** you don't necessarily want, but that you need; e.g., suffering.

**Matthew 6:12** *And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.*

The key that unlocks the meaning is the simple word, **as**. Let's say you are having a problem with someone. You are holding a grudge against them; or you have some bitterness towards them. Your Father is right there, standing next to you. But if you are out of fellowship with the other person, *you are also out of fellowship with God*. You see, if you pray that God would forgive you **as** you have forgiven them, **you are actually asking God to withhold His forgiveness the way you are withholding yours!**

Looking at it more positively: God has forgiven you so much! He is

your example of forgiveness, and He can empower you to forgive others who have wronged you.

By the way: This has nothing to do with your salvation. You are a child of God; God is your **Father**. But if you have issues with your brothers and sisters, you cannot enjoy the fullness of your fellowship with your **Father**.

**Matthew 6:13** And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The word for **temptation** means a *trial* or *testing* which, if yielded to, will lead to sin. There are two things you need to know about temptation:

1. First – God does not tempt you to sin.
2. Second – God does allow you to be tempted.

**Temptation** comes from **the evil one**. That's not to say you are always (or ever!) being attacked by the devil himself. It is a general observation. Satan – not God - tempted Adam and Eve. God allowed it. They yielded, and it led to sin. Their encounter with **the evil one** in the Garden of Eden set the stage for you to be tempted.

Jesus came to earth. He, too, was tempted by **the evil one**. There, in a bleak wilderness, tempted by Satan after forty days of fasting, Jesus relied upon the Word of God, and was victorious. He prevailed by depending upon His Father to help Him.

Your Dad is standing right next to you on earth, to help **you** resist the perils of **temptation**. You can be confident that none of the temptations that He allows are beyond your ability to resist, provided you will depend upon Him and not your own strength.

To put it another way: You can follow the example of Jesus in the wilderness rather than the example of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Your **Father** *provides* what you need; and He is standing there to help you in your problems with *people*, and through your *perils*. Those principles should guide you when you talk with Him.

Matthew 6:13 ...For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

This last sentence of the prayer is omitted in the Roman Catholic and many modern Protestant Bibles since it is lacking in many ancient manuscripts. However, such a doxology is the perfect ending to the prayer and is in the majority of manuscripts.

The **kingdom** of God is both literal and figurative. God will establish a literal kingdom. We call it the Millennial Kingdom or the Millennium. At the same time we say that God is sovereign. Nothing occurs outside of the boundaries He has set and everything is working together for the good of those who love Him.

**Power** is the energy by which the kingdom is maintained. **Glory** is due Him for His plan of redemption for the human race.

**Amen.** Some suppose the word is formed from the initial letters of *adoni melech neetnan*, My Lord, the faithful King. The word itself implies a confident resting of the soul in God, with the fullest assurance that all these petitions shall be fulfilled to every one who prays according to the directions given.

## Conclusion

Your Dad is standing next to you. He's got all power and brings glory to Himself through you as you await the coming kingdom. When it comes it will be **forever** – or literally, to the for evers.

Hang in there through conversation with God!