

## The Sermon on the Mount

### How to Pray: Praying According to God's Priorities; Matthew 6:9-15

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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.

Forgiveness is in the heart of God Himself. He is the author of mercy and forgiveness. He is the only One to forgive who has never offended. He is the only One to initial mercy towards others even when we didn't seek it.

Isaiah 30:18 Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.

Matthew 6:11-13 'Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'

Weight loss and the reality of a medical exam on December 26. They've texted me several times to let me know that there have been cancellations if I wanted to make the appointment earlier.

Kim is on my account and she texted me a couple of times too to let me know that there was an earlier appointment. I've declined every time. I want the motivation. I want to get in really good shape, lose a few pounds, increase cardio, etc.

Here is the plan, swim or elliptical every day for at least 30 minutes, plus walk 3 miles every day. Eat a light breakfast, drink only water for lunch, eat 1200 calories or less for dinner.

If I told you that I've also incorporated eating two large S'more blizzards ever afternoon, what would you tell me? There is a gaping hole in my preparation for that appointment.

We all have an appointment to keep. There is an evaluation coming. There is a day when we will stand before the Lord. Daily preparing for that event is wise, but ignoring a major aspect of the One we will approach on that day is unwise.

God, the merciful and forgiving God, is calling on us to imitate Him. He stands ready to forgive. He longs to extend mercy. We cannot ignore the forgiveness of others, if we are to be prepared for that moment.

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Sin as a moral debt

Parable of the two debtors at Simon's house

Luke 7:40 And Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he replied, "Say it, Teacher."

Luke 7:41-42 "A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?"

Luke 7:43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have judged correctly."

Luke 7:44-46 Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet. You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume.

Luke 7:47-48 For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little." Then He said to her, "Your sins have been forgiven."

God as the standard of forgiveness

Matthew 6:11-13 'Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'

Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

Matthew 5:44-45 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

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Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

Matthew 18:23-35 "...the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him...My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

God as the model of forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.