

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ
SoM, Part 19: Greater Righteousness, Part 7

Last time...Greater Righteousness with God

- Mercy/compassion for the poor
- prayer
- fasting

are expressions of worship

Jesus Christ contrasts:	<u>the hypocrites/fake</u>	<u>genuine disciples/real</u>
	their merit	Jesus' merit
	seen of men	seen of God
	heard of men	heard of God
	vanity	value
	reward now	reward later
	religious	relational

This time...Jesus teaches us how to pray

We need to learn how to pray and we need to be obedient to pray...

another expression of worship

So the Lord teaches us to pray

v9a After this manner:

This is a model, a pattern, a framework...

not a script to be repeated verbatim mindlessly over and over and over
again

(has become a vain repetition, a religious prayer)

v9-13

- A. The Introduction – to Whom we are speaking (proper attitude)
- B. The Perspective – for every circumstance
- C. The Need – every day
- D. The Greatest Need – for eternity
- E. The Protection – follow the Leader
- F. The Agreement – man with God

v9b Our Father

We start with...The Introduction – to Whom we are speaking to put us in the proper attitude

- Our
 - personal
 - possessive
 - yours, mine
- Father
 - Abba
 - relationship
 - approachable
 - knowable
 - loving
 - protecting
- Art in heaven
 - inhabits eternity
 - holds the universe in the span of His hand
 - Ps 8:3-4
 - infinitely greater than our earthly father
- Hallowed
 - holy (Is 6:3)
 - revered
 - honored
- Thy name
 - His power...not ours or man's
 - His authority...not ours or man's

v10 Thy kingdom...will:

Next: The Perspective – thru which to view every circumstance

- Thy kingdom
 - His Government (perfect), not man's (all are flawed, corrupt)
 - His King (perfect), not man's (all are flawed, corrupt)
- Thy will
 - His (perfect), not mine or man's (flawed and corrupt)
 - His way, His time
- on earth as it is in heaven
 - The Creator's sovereignty in the lives of His creatures in our home as it is in "His home"
 - His Name, His Kingdom, His will is the Ultimate Authority in the entire universe

The Son teaches us our prayer is centered on the Holy One, the Father, and His

- Name
- Kingdom
- Will

As demonstrated for us by Jesus Christ in the midst of His unspeakable agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt 26:39)

As demonstrated by many of the psalms of David, like Ps 13

- v1-4 persistent, pouring out his heart and emotions
- v5-6 resting in the Lord and his faith in the Lord,
his perspective changed

We are to pray

- pouring out our hearts like David...making our petitions known
- with the boldness of a child (Heb 4:16)...but not like a spoiled brat
- with persistence...but not frustration or impatience
- believing...not doubting or with a double-mind
- with unconditional surrender to the perfect will of our Father

We are not to pray giving God directions as to what we want Him to do, when, how...as if we are Lord of our lives

Apart from His will (ours vs His), His name is profaned and one cannot enter His Kingdom

Seeking and doing His will glorifies His Name and "expands" His Kingdom

v11 daily bread:

Next: The Need – daily

We need food/energy...bread...to sustain our temporary bodies

We need food/energy...Bread of Life...to sustain our eternal spirits

We need this food daily..."manna from heaven"

We must acknowledge that both forms of sustenance come from the Father in
Heaven Who knows our need (v7-8)

v12 forgive...as we forgive:

Next: The Greatest Need – for eternity

Lest we forget our greatest need on a daily basis, Jesus teaches us to ask the
Father we have offended to forgive our sins (a debt that must be paid)

Ps 51:4 all sin is against God

Gal 5:17 flesh and spirit are contrary one with the other

Rom 7:18-25 don't do what is right, do what is wrong

1 John 1:9 if we confess, He is faithful and just to forgive

A very important word: "as"...in the same manner

Does this mean our Father owes us forgiveness when we have forgiven
others?

Does this mean we are the bottleneck in receiving our greatest need?
Hold this thought

v13a lead us not...but deliver us:

Next: The Protection – follow the Leader

In the Jewish mind listening to Jesus teach on the Mount of Beatitudes, temptation

- testing of faithful obedience to God
- proving one's faith in God

was suffered by

- Adam and Eve in Gen 3
- Abraham in Gen 22

Beginning: Jesus Christ Himself was tempted/tested/proved in the wilderness for
40 days and 40 nights at the beginning of His ministry

End: Jesus will warn His disciples to not enter into temptation during His agony
and temptation in Gethsemane

Mark 14:38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.
The spirit truly *is* ready, but the flesh *is* weak.

Later: (in about 60 years from this point in time), Jesus Christ would dictate to the Apostle John a Letter to the faithful Church at Philadelphia, in which He promised they would be kept/preserved from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth (Rev 3:10)

In context of the SoM, the ministry of Jesus Christ, and all Scripture (John 5:39)

e.g. Job 14:1 man born of woman is of few days, full of trouble
John 16:33 in the world ye shall have tribulation but
James 1:3 the trying of our faith works patience...perfect work

“lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil” speaks of the Father’s protection from

- the depth and breadth of temptation by the tempter, the devil
- the ultimate danger of apostasy
- that undated but imminent time of temptation on the earth

We cannot “follow the Leader” if we are not watching and praying

We cannot be protected from temptation and delivered from evil unless we

- faithfully keep His Word/Will and do not deny His Name (Rev 3:8)
- hold fast/seize that which we have been given (Rev 3:11)
 - salvation thru grace and faith of Jesus Christ...forgiveness (Eph 2:8-9, Gal 2:16, Gal 2:20, Acts 26:18)
- overcome the world (Rev 3:12, 1 John 5:4-5)

v13b for Thine is the...Amen:

Lastly: The Agreement – man with God...not God with man

Amen...Let it be so, I agree (with my Father, His will not mine)

- The Kingdom is His, not man’s...1000 year reign of Messiah
- The power is His, not mine or man’s
- The glory is His, not mine or man’s
- Forever...always was, always is, always will be

This Agreement is not in Luke 11:4 or in the Roman Catholic “Our Father”

- This is a very Jewish sentiment (Gospel of Matthew)
- Not a Gentile thought (Gospel of Luke)
- Contrary to amillennial doctrine (no 1000 yr reign) of RCC plus

We are to conclude prayer by being in one accord (agreement) with our Father.
That is an effective prayer

James 5:17b The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

A prayer with the Father and a child of God in one accord...
the Father's will...has the power of God behind it

Examples of effective prayer (not measured by word count or elapsed time) but
in faithful agreement

Hannah (1 Sam 1)...If give me a son, I give him to You
David (Psalms)...circumstances unchanged but his perspective changed
Solomon (1 Kings 8)...no God like You; when pray, hear and forgive

Elijah (1 Kings 18:36-37)...may know You are Lord and turn heart back
Jehoshaphat (2 Chron 20:5-12)...know not what to do but our eyes on You
Daniel (Dan 9)...confessed his sin and that of nation, knowing "the time"
Nehemiah (Neh 1)...instant, intimate

Persistent friend or child (Luke 11:1-13, Luke 18:1-8)...never give up
The publican (Luke 18:9-14)...God be merciful to me a sinner
Jesus Christ (John 17)...we be one with Him and Father as they are one

Peter and John (Acts 3:6)...in Jesus' name
Apostles and disciples (Acts 4:23-33, Acts 12:1-12)...
Stephen (Acts 7:60)...forgive them ala Luke 23:34
Paul (Acts 27:21-26, 31, 35-36)...Acts 23:11 in Father's will, believe it

Examples of ineffective prayer

Vain repetitions of the heathen (rote, mantras, liturgical)
Self-willed (1 King 19:1-4, Jonah 4:1-3, Matt 20:20-21)
Self-exalting (Mark 12:38-40)
Self-indulgent (James 4:3)...for our own lusts
Unbelieving and impersonal (Acts 8:18-24; Simon Magnus the Gnostic)
Un-Love-ing (1 Peter 3:7)...me first, not God and others first
When in unrepented sin (Is 59:2)...our will, not Father's

When are we to pray?

When does a child desire to speak with Dad and/or Mom?
When does a parent want to talk with his/her child?
Whenever, whether when need help or just want to be with

Without ceasing (1 Thes 5:17)

Means prayer is conversational – talking AND listening
Ps 46:1, 10
All day long...mostly listening to the Lord speak into our hearts

Within the context of the Greater Righteousness toward God of Matt 6:1-18...

Don't pray to impress man or God or to inform God

(has it ever occurred to us that nothing occurs to God?!)

Pray to enter into the presence of God, to enjoy fellowship with the Father,
to be in one accord with the Father Whose will be done on earth as
it is in heaven

v14-15 forgive...forgive not:

A Postscript to the model – was the “Amen” sincere or not?

The Greatest Need is revisited in light of our Agreement

Does this mean our Father owes us forgiveness when we have forgiven others?

No...God is no man's debtor

We cannot obligate God to forgive us (even if we do not agree with Him)

by our forgiving others; forgiveness would be a work, not a gift

Instead, because the Father has forgiven me...given me grace...I am now
able and willing to forgive others, to be gracious

Does this mean we are the bottleneck in receiving our greatest need?

Yes...we must give as freely as we have received (Matt 10:8)

To forgive others is to be Christ-like, to have the mind of Christ

Luke 23:34

To not forgive is, and seek revenge...Satanic

Parable of the Wicked Servant (Matt 18:21-35)

Thus, this very important Postscript after the “Amen”

- Sincere agreement: we are forgiven, as evidenced by our forgiving others
- Insincere agreement: we are not forgiven, as evidenced by our not forgiving others

Agreement is in the doing, not the hearing

If I have been reconciled to God by the Person and Work of Jesus Christ

and have been born-again by the Spirit of God and been given the power
to become a child of God, crucified with Christ yet Christ living in me,
then this Greater Righteousness with God will be seen in my
relationships with others

If not, it will not

Jesus repeated this very important teaching after His Triumphal Entry and the 2nd cleansing of the Temple...in the last week of His ministry before the Cross

Mark 11:25-26 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

If Jesus repeatedly taught...it must be very important

The “crux” of the matter upon which hangs my eternity is God’s forgiveness of my sin...and my sincere agreement with Him

A framework/model given by God to help us remember...not a rote prayer... is Jesus’ teaching in v9-13 with the Postscript of v14-15

Let’s gather in small groups to pray...in agreement with, in one accord with our Father

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Closing Song