KINGDOM of HEAVEN

A SERIES IN THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

Matthew 6:9-15

(Sermon from Sunday 11 June 2023, Zwai Zulu)

1. **Information**

   a) **Read the passage, perhaps twice using two different versions**

   b) **Fill in any info that didn't make into the sermon**

- This week is focusing on the center of the center of the center of the Sermon on the Mount!
- The Lord's Prayer is very familiar! There are key theological themes that are highlighted in the prayer that Matthew has been carefully building. We have looked at Righteousness, Right Religion, and we have been introduced to God as "Our Father"! This idea of God as our Father is connected to how we approach God in prayer.
- In the previous section in 6:5-6, Jesus has **warned how not** to pray!
  - Do not be like the hypocrites because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and at the corners of the main streets **so that they might be seen by others**.
  - Go **pray in private**! When you pray, go to your room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father, **who sees in secret**, will reward you.
  - When you pray, **don't babble** repetitiously like the Gentiles, because of their insecurities [because they think that by their many words they will be heard]. Do not be like them!
  - **Your Father** knows what you **need** before you ask him!
  - Do not pray like the Gentiles or the Hypocrites, their **motives** are wrong!

- Important to note, prayer can and should be done in public but it must not be driven by wrong motives.
- *Our Father sees our needs long before we ask Him*! He sees what is done in secret i.e. then you can pray in private.
- So then, this week we look at how to pray!
- Important point to note, the Kingdom theme laid out in the Beatitudes is picked up again in 6:10. This reference helps us see that Jesus is still teaching about His Kingdom that is at hand!
- **The structure of the passage:**
    - Introduction – Matt. 6:7-8
    - Six petitions – Matt.6:9-13
    - Conclusion – Matt. 6:14-15

2. Activation

- How would your prayer change negatively if you were not able to call God Father?
- Why does Jesus instruct you to pray for God's name to be *'honored as holy'* and *'his kingdom come'* before making requests for daily bread and forgiveness of sins?
- Should Christians wait for God to make all things new or work now to shape the world to what it will be one day?
- When God's Kingdom does come, how will all of life (politics, art, education, science, economics etc.) be different?
- Why should your prayers be concerned with aligning these areas now to how God will change them in future?
- Reflect on Jesus' resurrection, how does it demonstrate that you can pray confidently for God's will to be done in your life?
- How can having easier access to food, water, and shelter hurt your dependence on God?
- Why is forgiveness from God dependent on your forgiving others?
- Are you regularly aware of Satan's work against you to tempt you? How does knowing that temptation comes not only from your sin inside but from Satan outside help you pray and fight against sin?

3. Implementation

- Be sure to end your session by praying this way
- Encourage each other to use this 'scaffolding' (how to pray) as a way to improve our prayer lives