

Small Group Outline for Week of January 11, 2021
WEFC January 2021 Prayer Message Series
Message 2: Matthew 6:5-13

Welcome:

Share: how is 2021 going with two weeks in?

What are you looking forward to this year? Nothing to do with COVID though. ☺

Reminder and context from previous week:

Jesus simply teaches 3 things about praying; Jesus assumes you will pray; He knows when you pray, He knows when you will pray, and He know what you will pray: so... "When you pray..."

1. Don't pray so that people will notice you - that is hypocrisy and pretending - it's not real. Your prayers won't get you anywhere
2. (Instead) Go into a quiet place with God, tell Him what's on your mind and heart. Found it yet?
3. There is no need to babble or do anything that you need to do to make Him hear
 - He already hears you; He loves you, and He already knows what is on your heart and mind
 - That regular quiet place is so key to our time with God; like any relationship (Pastor Len)

Read Matthew 6:5-13

Whose agenda? Most meetings and intentional conversations have an agenda; they have a purpose; sometimes ours, and sometimes the other person.

Most of the time it is all about God's agenda and purposes. We come to God in prayer, but it actually about Him. Yes, He knows what we need, even before we ask him; yes, He will give us our daily bread; yes, He will forgive us our sins (as we forgive others). God being God, He is Sovereign and has all authority. Let's see this in this prayer:

1. Vs. 9 – Worship (OUR Father!)

- God must be treated with highest honor. To hallow God's name means to hold it in reverence — hence, to hold Him in reverence, to honor, glorify, and exalt him.
 - This is the essence of the first three of the Ten Commandments: "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything... You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God ..." (Ex. 20:3 - 7; Deut. 5:7 - 11).
- *How do we speak of God's name? How is our worship?*
- *Share a meaningful time you have had in private or corporate worship.*

2. Vs. 10 - Submission

- Wherever the kingdom of heaven exerts its presence, God's **will** is experienced. The term for "**will**", which can indicate God's
 - **purpose** (e.g., Eph. 1:11) and
 - **desire** (e.g., Luke 13:34). But as here, the term can express God's
 - **will of command**, as in the psalmist's exclamation, "I desire to do your **will**; your law is within my heart" (Ps. 40:8).
 - Jesus' own utmost act of obedience in His earthly ministry was to submit to **will** of God the Father.
 - He declared this allegiance at the outset: "My food ... is to do the **will** of Him who sent me and to finish his work" (John 4:34),
 - In the Garden of Gethsemane: "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. **Yet not as I will, but as you will**" (Matt. 26:39, 42).
- *Share of a time when you wrestled with God's will for your life. Why was it difficult and how was it resolved?*

In response to God's Kingdom and God's Will, there are 3 aspects that actually fit together...

Vs. 11 – Dependence (Give US!)

- Daily Bread: bread is a word to describe our needs for life, including but not limited to food.
 - If God cares for us today, then surely, He will provide for us every day of our lives. The best way to prevent worry and anxiety is to consciously trust God for today's bread, and trust him for tomorrow's bread (cf. 6:34; Phil. 4:6).
- Do we depend daily?
- *Share and pray together for something that you need from God today or this week.*

Vs. 12 - Forgiveness (see also vs. 14-15) (Forgive US)

- Matthew uses the word "debt" and Luke uses word "sin". Perfect word as sin creates a debt to God we cannot pay. We ask for forgiveness (granted to the repented sinner) as we live this forgiven life by forgiving others (notice warning in vs. 14-15)
- *Personal reflection time:*
 - *Is there a sin you need to confess and receive forgiveness from God?*
 - *Is there a person you need to forgive?*
 - *Is there a person you to ask for forgiveness?*

Vs. 13 - Testing/Challenges (Lead US not... deliver US)

- Since God is not one who tempts his people to do evil (James 1:13), and the word rendered "temptation" can be used for either temptation or testing (cf. Matt. 4:1 -11). This indicates that we should pray either for relief from temptations and testing (Ex. 16:4; Deut. 8:16; 1 Peter 1:7) or for our testing not to become an occasion for temptation.
 - Jesus also directed His disciples to pray this way in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak" (Matthew 26:41).
 - Deliver us from both evil and from the evil one. 2 Corinthians 3:3 states, "But the Lord is faithful; He will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one (evil)."
- *Is there a testing or temptation you are experiencing? Share and pray for each other.*

Weekly Reflection:

1. Read Matthew 6:5-18; 7:7-10 this week
2. Go to your Quiet time - create the time if you don't have one (re-create or change it)
 - Take 10 minutes: focus on one passage of Scripture
 - Then pray whatever comes to your mind or heart - write it down
3. Challenge yourself to read the Bible in a year
 - One Year Bible
 - Online search for reading plan
4. Plan for a Prayer Gathering on Sunday, January 17, 2021 at 7:00pm
5. Extra Study: take a concordance and see where the words "pray" or "prayer" are used in the Gospels and in the Book of Acts (www.biblegateway.com). Be sure to check the context.