

Vertical Church Series, Part 2

“Jesus Teach Us to Pray, Part 2” Matthew 6:9-13

Week two of our series entitled Vertical Church – began by laying the **frame work**- again today!

A) Talking about having a regular fruitful prayer life.

B) We will get to talking about specific kind of prayer – the effectiveness of prayer – **prayer and fasting**

1) times where desperate cry out.

C)) But an **effective prayer** is born out of a **healthy regular** - prayer life!

If I were to walk up to you and say, “How’s your prayer life?”

A) No matter how good it is I think most of us would say, “**Well, it could be better.**”

B) **EM Bounds** wrote 5 books on prayer – he is considered a spiritual giant in the realm of prayer - very disciplined – when He died – he declared –

I am not satisfied with my prayer life.

C) That makes me want to quit – not even trying!

D) But the more I think about it - But I understand the heart –

1) Can I ever talk to God too much.

2) Reached my quota talking to the God of the univ

Too often people don’t pray because they feel guilty about prayer. {**Don’t pray enough**} **shame**

A) Or they feel embarrassed by prayer, **They don’t know how to pray..**

B) Some of you wrestled with what I said last week about – prayer being intelligent

1) **thoughtful** -and should avoid vain repetition.

C) Vain repetition – saying the Lord’s name over and over –

1) **We don’t talk to anyone that way!**

D) Threw a few people for loop/ – Interesting discussion this week at our staff meeting.

1) one of the guys said – **I couldn’t even pray that night with my wife** – after that.

Listen my point in saying that was not to embarrass anyone, or defeat- **make you not want to pray.**

A) Point was to say – we can to grow –I have

B) I used to pray that way –all the time

C) Starting praying out loud – at home –by myself
Pause – **in about 4days** – stopped.

D) My point also was not – say Father and never mention His name again – You can’t do that – NO

Jesus John 17 Father 6 times –O, .. Holy, righteous

A)But there was intention to it – not mindless – fill in the space – Lord, Father, {**Denise, babe, sweat heart**

B)So Please don't let that hinder you from praying – but seek to grow.

1)I think you will find your prayer life becoming more meaningful.

B)Learning how to have **a real conversation** with God. That is what prayer is

So we started last week looking at what Jesus TAUGHT -about Prayer. {Chapter 6:5-9

A)Saw That the **primary purpose of prayer is not** to be seen by men or heard by men!

B)Prayer doesn't have to be many words!

1)The length is not important –

2)Avoid Vain repetition

C)Those things are not important – but what is important is the place

1) pick a place –you can focus — no distractions
Room – Backyard – private

D)Don't worry so much about your worries, needs, wants and wishes – your Father knows that you need those things –

1)Tell Him –share with Him – but your don't need to spend all your time on that!

But then we found ourselves wondering - if God knows what my needs are!

A)What exactly am I supposed to talk to Him about when I go into my room?

B)Jesus says glad you asked – Ok, listen up

1)V.9 **In this manner, therefore, pray:** This is not a formula –not memorize - because that would become vain repetition –

C)Not a formula – **it is a manner of prayer** –

1)Guideline – framework

C)Take a guideline or a framework and build different kinds of structure!

1)Like a track home – similar construction – lay out but you add personal flavor – color decorate

C)Jesus is saying here is the framework for effective prayer life. Matt 6:9-13

9 In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

**10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.**

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

**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.**

So Jesus says when you pray: Start by affirming your relationship with Your God

A) Don't **start with your needs** – start with God – and when you talk to Him, call Him Father

Aa) **father = Abba = daddy**

B) See **Healthy prayer life** is born out of having a good understanding of my relationship with Him

1) He is DAD!

C) My kids know that they can come to me for anything – because they know that I love them and I am for them

1) That is definitely how God wants us to feel as His pp – He is Dad – He loves us –

2) Cares deeply about every aspect of our lives

When you go into the secret place!

A) The first thing I want you to do/ – **and try not to rush past this** – spend as much time as you need to on this –

B) Recognize who God is and who He wants to be in your life

C) Father – Abba – daddy

1) But not just any dad – Who is in heaven – He is great He is sovereign – He is almighty

Start by affirming your relationship with God that He is Dad – but recognize that He is great!

A) Start by declaring God's greatness! **Hallowed – be Your name**

B) Great is your name Father! –

1) Spend some time there – Declaring the Greatness of God –

C) When you begin to understand the greatness of God – **when you pause long enough to declare His greatness** –

1) it puts everything else into perspective

D) All the unresolved issues plaguing my mind – suddenly get smaller – seen in light of who He is

E) The more time I spend on who it is that I am talking to – **the more confident you will be** that He is with you when you leave

1) More confidence you will have in His ability to help.

The problem for many of us is that we don't spend much time there at all

A) We rush past this going directly to our needs, wants, wishes, our concerns

B) Jesus says – **that is fine to do** – bring God your needs, wants, wishes, and concerns – but if that is all you do – you are missing a critical piece of prayer -

C) Intimacy and relationship that leads to having the right perspective about my needs.

D) I think this is what Jesus had in mind when He said on three separate occasions – **You must become like Little Children to enter the kingdom of God.**

Childlike faith – sees beyond the rational!

A) Dad can do anything – dad is superman – Dad is awesome

B) Then our kids become teenagers and they realize that none of that is true!

1) Dad is fallible – doesn't know everything...idiot

C) But that is not the case with God our Father – He is awesome, powerful, all knowing –

1) He can do ANYTHING

D) Come to God as Daddy – Childlike faith that He can do anything – Dream big –

1) Nothing too hard for God -

Love this quote from Winston Churchill

“A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity, an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”

E) It is the believer who has that Childlike faith that is the optimist – they see the opportunity in every difficulty – because they see God factored into the equation.

Example: Teaching this semester on Wed. mornings out at the Bible College – Life of David.

A) David in his early years as a young teen had this child like faith in God.

B) He was amazed at God – He wrote Psalm 19 and Psalm 8 as a teen –

1) Chronological Bible puts the writing of those Psalms right before his encounter with Goliath

Psalms 19

v.1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.”

Psalms 8:3-4

“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, 4 What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?”

C) This is what David had been meditating on when he comes to the Battle –hears Goliath.

1) No wonder his perspective was different than the rest of the men – Who is this Living God?

So Start by affirming your relationship with God as your Father – and Declaring God's glory

A) All is then seen in light of this God who is my Father – who is great and awesome – whose resources are unlimited and inexhaustible

Starting with God & His greatness puts my problems, my struggles, my financial issues in proper perspective,

A) He can handle any need that I have!

B) How do we do that? Psalms - worship songs – read what someone has written about God's glory –

C) Now another reason why It is important to start with God is: When I see how great that He is –

1) I realize - He deserves my allegiance – He deserves my submission

D) Which leads us to what Jesus says next -

Your kingdom come – Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven{

The next part of the framework - Surrender to God's purpose

A) Now this is part where we really struggle – this is the part **where we race by** – this is the part that we want to run from

B) This is the part where we find ourselves wrestling with God

C) But this is the crux of following Jesus – this is the critical issue of prayer

Paraphrase: Before I get into my needs wants..... I just want You to know that whatever the answer is – **YOUR WILL BE DONE FATHER!**

A) Before my will – Your will Father - Your kingdom is before my kingdom

B) I want You to know that **right now in this moment** I am surrendering my will to Yours

“Prayer is not getting my will in Heaven, it's getting God's will on earth!”

A) Prayer is not an argument with God to persuade Him to move things our way

B) But prayer is an exercise where we are enabled by the Spirit to move ourselves His way!

C) Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance but laying hold of His willingness.

Jesus says tell Him: **Father - Your agenda for my family comes before my agenda for my family.**

A) Your agenda for my marriage, whether or not I get married, my business, my kids, my Ministry my money –

B) Telling Dad- I am **fully surrendered** –to You, Your will above my own!

1) Your kingdom.... *on earth* - - that is my world

But this is where the struggle is – we skip over this

A) Jesus says you can't – see this is the point of Prayer

B) It is not to get stuff from Me – it is to bring you into alignment with Me

C) It is to bring our wills – our agendas our visions for the future into alignment

1) This can be hard

**D) Interesting - John 11 Jesus is going to pray to raise Laz from the dead – Simple – 10 sec prayer.
John 11:41-44**

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. 42 You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe You sent me." 43 Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!"

That was His prayer to raise the dead – but when He was going to give His life for the sins of the world.

A) We read on the night before – in the garden of Gethsemane – He prayed all night. Sweat blood

**B) He wrestled in His humanity – becoming sin
Separation –**

C) Father any way – not My will be done!

That can be hard for us – but This is where life Change happens

A) You come to God as Dad – you declare His greatness – you surrender your will.

B) God becomes not just a category of your life – but the center – the focus –

1) everything else is revolving around who He is

How often have we heard conversion stories of someone – who maybe grew up in the church

A) Then college or marriage – walked away – prayers went something like this

My kingdom come my will be done on earth who gives a rip about heaven.

Give me everything that I want, everything that I can consume, everything that I can put into my body, my bank account

Lead me not into temptation – I can find it all by myself

B) People live that way for many years – Prodigal – finally in their pig pen / they realize, man I have made a mess with my life.

C) They pray – Lord I am surrendering my life to You they pray “not my will but Yours be done.”

1) and they change!

D) That is when life change happens

And I wonder of this little practice – regularly approaching God as Father – declaring His greatness – surrendering our wills –

A) If this was a regular part of our lives – I wonder if there would be a lot less Prodigals

B) Jesus says – when you pray – this is how it works – Dad – great – surrender

C) **You know how long it takes to pray that prayer?**

D) It all depends on where you are at in your relationship with your Heavenly Father

The length of the prayer is not dependent upon the willingness of your God

A) The length of your prayer will be determined by the **genuine willingness of your heart**

B) If we are **not at the place** where we recognize the greatness of God – we need to stay there a while

C) If we are not at the place where we can fully **surrender an aspect of our lives to Him** –

1) We just need to stay there a while.

D) Some mornings that might be 5 minutes – everything is good – nothing struggling with

But there will be Other days things have taken a turn in your marriage – things are worse with Kids

A) Your heart is heavy- financial pressures

B) You come to God and say Lord all this stuff is going on and I want to be surrendered to Your will – I want to leave this in Your hands –

C) But right now I am just not there – I am struggling

1) God says – that is ok – we can stay right there. –

We can just declare My glory and wrestle with My will – and if you run out of time –

A) Just come back tomorrow and we will pick up right there

B) You are my child and I am your Dad I love you– I want you to trust me – But if you are not there- ok

D) **Wrestle with that one area** – Marriage – Finances – you don't think I understand economics?

That is a whole different kind of Prayer

A) See, here is the key when your faith in God (ok God I will trust you) When my faith intersects with His faithfulness (here is what I am going to do)

Life changes –

**When my faith intersects with His faithfulness
Life changes!**

B) That is why the gospel is so important - the death of His Son paves the way for that kind of intimacy

So here is how you pray – Room – private place....

Dad.....

Greatness

Surrender my will

Declaring my dependency

A) Declaring my dependency as it relates to the concerns of life–

B) See that is what the rest of this model is about – v.11 Give us now talking – give Lord

C) But If I skip the first part of this prayer – these become Demands –

1) God, you need to come through

D) If I start with the first part – this becomes a declaration of my dependency.

God You're my great and awesome Father – Cares for me I am yielded to You –

A) **“Of course I am going to come with my needs.”**

B) I am dependent upon You for all things

Give us this day our daily bread! Martin Luther rightfully defined bread as everything necessary for the preservation of this life.

A) This verse encourages us to talk to God about the necessities of Life

B) Bring your daily needs – strength – provision –

1) Whatever your daily needs are.

C) I pray for wisdom and balance – everyday –

1) Admission of dependency.

**This daily Bread addresses the PRESENT
Forgive us our sins addresses the PAST
Lead us not into Temptation ...FUTURE**

I need daily to pray for provision because – there is a lot that I need to be the husband, father, pastor,

A) I also need to pray daily for forgiveness – because I am a sinner

B) This is ESSENTIAL to my relationship with God.

A group of prominent Christian theologians were discussing at a seminar - “What is found in Christianity which is not found in any other religion?”

C. S. Lewis, the brilliant thinker and gifted author, was caught in traffic while the rest of the panel puzzled over this question. After about an hour, Lewis arrived, and the question was posed to him. **“That’s simple,” he replied. “The forgiveness of sin.”**

C)Our past is buried in the sea of God’s forgiveness and forgetfulness.

1)He does not remember our sin anymore. And that is what makes Christianity absolutely unique.

Forgive us *As we forgive those who have sinned against us* – Assumes that we are choosing to walk in forgiveness. -

A)Jesus said – we need to forgive because we have been forgiven so much.

B)Some pp say that is hard! - Problem is they fail to realize there is a difference between forgiveness and reconciliation and trust. – explain

C)When we forgive someone who’s sinned against us this doesn’t mean that **we’re denying** that they’ve sinned against us.

1)This doesn’t mean that we’re **accepting** the sin that was committed.

D)This doesn’t mean we’re **overlooking it**. This doesn’t mean we’re **diminishing it or denying** it in any way.

1)This doesn’t mean we’re saying, “Oh I’m fine. Or that’s okay. Or I understand. Or nobody’s perfect.”

In choosing to forgive what we are saying is this, “I wish God’s best for you.

A)I give up my right to seek vengeance and justice. God will get it.” **Forgiveness { throw in the tree**

B)Justice was served – and God is a righteous judge

C)Now in saying this, this doesn’t mean if they’ve committed a crime that you don’t call the cops.

1)This doesn’t mean if they’ve molested a child that they don’t get arrested and go to jail.

And this also doesn’t mean that you reconcile with them necessarily.

A)See, forgiveness takes one person. {Me}
Reconciliation takes two.

B)You can forgive someone **but you can’t be reconciled** until they confess and repent and change.

C)Reconciliation follows repentance – let’s say there is repentance – and reconciliation

D)Then even though you are now reconciled – it still will take time for Trust to be established

E)Trust is born over time and consistent behavior

**Forgiveness – one person (YOU) your heart
Reconciliation- Two pp – repentance
Trust – time and consistent behavior**

So Jesus says pray for the present – Daily needs
Past – Forgive me of my sins

Future – Lead us not into temptation

He concludes His petitions with a prayer of protection. “And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one ”

A)This world is full of temptation and evil – We are in a battle – Playground vs a Battle ground.

B)We need to pray for Protection – that is what this is

C)Wait- How could Jesus say, **“Lead us not into temptation”?** Does God lead us into sin? No. James 1:13 and 14 says, **“God does not tempt anyone to sin.”** He doesn't.

D)What this is is a heartfelt prayer saying, **“God I agree with you. God I don't want to be led into temptation so deliver me from evil one.**

God I don't want to walk away from You. So keep me close to You.

A)God I don't want to get into trouble. I want to obey. I love my Dad.

B)I don't want to dishonor, disobey, disrespect, disregard my Dad. Dad help me out.

C)Sometimes I'm stupid and I'm foolish and I'm silly and I wander and I'm tempted. Help me Dad.

1)Let me see it coming. And if I'm in it, help me get out.” That's the heart of this request!.

Too many people pray only after they sin. “God I've blown it. I'm sorry. Help.”

A)If you sin and you're in trouble, yeah, cry out to God for help.

B)And Dad will help His kids. But it's good to pray in advance before you're tempted.

1) It's good to pray in advance before you're in evil.

C)**Pray offensively.** Pray before!

1)Father I am going into this situation – Help me!

D)**Pray for protection** for yourself? Husband/ Wife For your children?

E)I pray regularly for God's protection on our church – our school.

Notice how He Ends! Back at His glory
Matthew 6:13

“For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”