

Lord, Teach us to Pray

Matthew 6: 11-12

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Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Daily Bread

Exodus 16. 1-5

- Only to gather what they need.
- Trusting in God's daily provision.
- In between, we rest.

Matthew 6. 25-33

- We are to have a trustful, thankful prayer posture.

Jesus' Temptation

- Satan tries to draw Jesus into self-sufficiency and away from the Father's will. Self-sufficiency never fulfills God's will.

John 6. 26-27

- Seek eternal life above physical things.
- John 6. 32ff

*Trusting God for daily provision might seem risky, but in reality, entrusting ourselves to God and his provision is the safest, most fulfilling place.

Forgiveness

This section of the prayer is the only place that deviates from Jesus' own experience of prayer. It's also a window into the redemptive nature of God's mission. God's New Covenant grace is outside the religious walls of Jesus' day, and will onrush into every life. (Mark 2. 5-12)

As we forgive:

- Matt 6. 14 – forgive or don't be forgiven.
- Enteral forgiveness 7 x 7
- The story of the unforgiving debtor
- It's good for us, a reflection of God's grace in our lives.
- Forgiveness sends a message

- 2 Corinthians 5. 18-20

*Jesus was so full of grace that he gave his torturers and executioners the benefit of the doubt, *"Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."* Without forgiveness extended to others, the Kingdom is brought to a halt.

The bread we ask for is a reminder of God's grace (as it represents Grace-incarnate, Jesus), and the forgiveness we need, and in kind, extend, is a manifestation of God's mercy. So this section of the prayer is a well rounded expression to God's *grace and mercy*.

Grace is getting what you don't deserve. Mercy is not getting what you deserve.

Discussion Questions:

- How has God provided in your life? Share some stories.
- Where are you learning to trust him more?
- How has God provided "daily" – why does he do this?
- Describe a time you felt forgiven.
- Are you a forgiving person?
- Where could you let God's grace (bread, provision) and mercy (forgiveness) flow over into other's lives?