

***It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.***

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

***Standing on the Promises of God - -***

**Hebrews 12:1-3** Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

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**Matthew 6**

Remember that this next section of the Sermon on the Mount is a contrast between the self-righteous practices of the Pharisees and the correct practice (the **Orthopraxy**) of the kingdom subject's righteousness.

The Lord covers three subjects -

- Giving (**Matthew 6:2-4**)
- Praying (**vv. 5-15**)
- Fasting (**vv. 16-18**)

*In review -*

POD - The Pharisees prayed in public *to be* righteous in men's eyes; however the kingdom subject will pray because he is righteous in God's eyes (**Matthew 6:5**).

POD - Religious people [*believer and unbeliever*] pray to be heard and therefore esteemed spiritual by their fellow men (**Matthew 6:5**).

POD - The spiritual believer, in the Church Age, is led by the Spirit publicly or privately from within to pray in an intercessory capacity for the glory of God (**Matthew 6:6; Acts 12:5 plus Ephesians 6:18**).

POD - Verbosity and repetition in prayer may secure the praise of men but fails to actuate God (**Matthew 6:7**).

**John 14:13** "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

POD - The spiritual believer gets to the point in the throne room of grace (**Matthew 6:7**).

*Prayer and the Prayer Meeting*, Mackintosh, C. H. - [www.stempublishing.com](http://www.stempublishing.com)

Now, we cannot but judge that there is a great practical lesson here which may be applied, with immense profit, to our prayers and our prayer-meetings. Must we not admit that our reunions for prayer suffer sadly from long, rambling, desultory prayers? Do we not frequently give utterance to a whole host of things of which we do not really feel the need, and which we have no notion of waiting for at all?

Some of us seem to think it necessary to make one long prayer about all sorts of things — many of them very right and very good, no doubt. . . How much better to

bring some one object before the throne, earnestly urge it, and pause, so that the Holy Spirit may lead out others, in like manner, either for the same thing or something else equally definite.

**Matthew 6:9 - The Lord gives an outline for prayer - -**

“Pray, then, in this way: Our Father who art in *the* heavens. . .

**All prayer is addressed to the Father.**

**Matthew 27:46** About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

See - **Psalms 22:1** ←

➤ Jesus Christ **NEVER** violated the protocol of prayer!

**John 19:30** Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

➤ The Holy Spirit **NEVER** turned His back on Jesus Christ while He was on the cross!

. . . Hallowed be Your name.

**vs. 10** Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

POD – The first part of the disciple’s prayer teaches that the glorification of God, through the fulfillment of His plan, is the highest priority in prayer (**Matthew 6:9-10**).

POD – Prayer is a personal and intimate conversation with the believer’s propitious, merciful, and loving Heavenly Father.

POD - While the kingdom was being offered, it was legitimate to urgently pray for its establishment (**Matthew 6:10**).

POD – The Kingdom is not being offered today and, in light of the next prophetic event, it is not appropriate for the Christian to pray for the “Kingdom to come.”

POD - To pray for the will of God above all and before all reflects a selfless soul that is malleable to the will of God (**Matthew 6:9-10 cf. vs. 11**).

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our **debts** - **ὀφείλημα** – “sin(s)” - as we forgive our debtors [*those who have sinned against us*].

**Luke 18:10 - 12**

"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>

"The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'

POD – Self-righteous arrogance blinds people from realizing their sin and need of forgiveness.

**vs. 13-14** "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' <sup>14</sup>

"I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be **humbled**, but he who humbles himself will be **exalted**."

From **Philippians 2** - -

- Did Jesus Christ humble Himself? **vs. 8**
- Was Jesus Christ exalted? **vs. 9**
- What is the command to us?

**Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 2:5***

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

<sup>14</sup> "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

<sup>15</sup> "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."

### **Matthew 18:21-35**

Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. <sup>23</sup> "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> "When he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.

#### **A slave had a debt and no way to pay it back!**

<sup>25</sup> "But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made.

<sup>26</sup> "So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' <sup>27</sup> "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.

<sup>28</sup> "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii. . .

**A debt of a hundred denarii is miniscule in comparison to a debt of 10,000 talents.**

. . . and he seized him and *began to choke him*, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.'

- > Was the first debtor seized?
- > Was the first debtor choked?

<sup>29</sup> "So his fellow slave [*the one with the 100 denarii debt*] fell *to the ground* and *began to plead* with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.'

- > Please observe that both of their pleas are the same.

<sup>30</sup> "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.

<sup>31</sup> "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.

<sup>32</sup> "Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup> "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. <sup>35</sup> "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

POD - The kingdom subject, as well as the Church Age Believer, is to forgive as God forgives.

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*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*