

September 8, 2019

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“Our Father in the Heavens”

Matthew 6:9

1. We **UNDESERVEDLY** access a **PRIVILEGED** relationship, v. 9 (cf. Matthew 7:11; Psalm 89:26; 103:13; Isaiah 63:16; 64:8; Ephesians 1:2-6; Galatians 4:4-7; Romans 8:14-17; 1 John 1:3; 2:1, 23-24; 3:1; 2 John 1:3-4).
2. We **BOLDLY** approach in a **POSTURE** of reverence, v. 9 (cf. Hebrews 4:16; 10:19-22; 12:28-29; Psalm 24:3-4; 2 Chronicles 20:6; 1 Kings 8:43; Isaiah 29:23; 48:9-11; 57:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:23).
3. We **HUMBLY** appeal with a **PRIORITY** request, v. 9 (cf. Matt. 5:34; 2 Corinthians 6:17-18; Psalm 96; Psalm 106:47; 1 Chronicles 16:29; Isaiah 43:6-7; Ezekiel 20:8-9; 36:20-23; Malachi 1:6; 1 Peter 1:15).



Read Matthew 6:5-15. Did Jesus intend for this prayer to be recited word for word as a mantra? How do you know (Hint: see v. 9)? If it is a model for prayer, what are the different parts that Jesus wants us to include when we pray? How are the parts connected? Use the model to lead your family in prayer for one another, and for others.

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion

1. As Jesus instructs his disciples in how to pray, he uses the plural “Our” (v. 9) when referring to the Father. Who gets to call God “Our Father” (cf. Gal. 4:4-7; Eph. 1:1-14)? How is addressing God as “Our Father” a result of the Gospel? How is it a help in remembering to pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ?
2. In Jewish thinking, there were 3 “heavens” (the sky, space, and the dwelling place of God). Most English translations translate Matt. 6:9 “Our Father in heaven” even though “heaven” in the Greek is in the plural. In *The Divine Conspiracy*, Dallas Willard writes (p. 257): “The omission of the plural robs the wording in the model prayer of the sense Jesus intended. That sense is, ‘Our Father always near us.’” Do you pray believing God is near or distant? Why is that? How does it change how you pray?

3. Is the phrase “hallowed be your name” (v. 9 ESV) a statement that God’s Name *is* holy, a request for God’s Name *to be* holy, or a petition that His Name would be *honored as* holy? See CSB or NET translation for help. What does it mean to honor God’s Name as holy in your prayers, your behavior, your entertainment, your parenting, your employment, evangelism, etc.? Is it significant that this is the prayer’s first request?
4. Followers of Jesus have access to God as Father (Aramaic: Abba = “Daddy”), through Jesus. How does a child normally approach his or her “daddy?” Is it formulaic and repetitive, like a script? Do *your* prayers typically sound like a child approaching a daddy, or something else? How does one approach God as “Daddy” at the same time that he or she honors His Name as holy, remembering that He is a “consuming fire” (Heb. 12:29)?

NEXT WEEK: “Your Will Be Done...” Matthew 6:10