

September 22, 2019

Pastor Steve Hardy

"Our Daily Bread"

Matthew 6:11-13

What do you do when you and someone you love share a common interest in something? You talk about it! As Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray and he turns to requests made of the Father, every request involves something we know the Father is vitally interested in and has or will make provision for!

I. Talk to the Father about today's NEEDS, 6:11. See also 6:8; 6:25-34.

II. Talk to the Father about today's SINS, 6:12. See also 1 John 1:9; Matthew 5:21-24; Matthew 18:21-35.

III. Talk to the Father about today's WALK, 6:13. See also Galatians 5:16-25; James 1:12-15.

IV. Talk to the Father about today's PROTECTION, 6:13. See also Ephesians 6:10-20.

It is certain Jesus was not intending "the Lord's Prayer" to become a formula, since he instructed against "vain repetition" in 6:7. He was encouraging an ongoing interaction with the Father about things of mutual concern, with the underlying assumption of our absolute dependence on him. This becomes a part of acknowledging that he is the Lord our God, as both worship and a witness to our faith in Jesus.



When Jesus gave these prayer instructions (Matthew 6:9-13), people often lived with only daily provision. Talk about this as a family, how most of us by contrast are supplied for days, or maybe weeks to come. What blessings make "storing up" for the future possible (ask, what would be different if there were no refrigeration?) How are we still dependent on God, even if we earn and save for the future?

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. Most of us live quite beyond a sense of "need for today", at least in terms of bread (physical provisions).

--What does the request for "daily bread" mean when we already have an abundance?

--Have you ever been in a situation where provisions were in short supply, or non-existent? How does this (or would this) impact your praying?

--Are you ever anxious about future provision? How does Matthew 6:25-34 factor into thinking and praying about our daily needs?

2. "Our debts" most likely refers, here in the context of forgiveness, to sins that have put us "in debt"—to God as well as to other people.

--Who are we in debt to when we sin? What do we owe? (See Romans 6:23; Matthew 5:21-26).

--How is our sin debt to God paid (see 1 Peter 3:18; Romans 3:21-26)?

--How are we to pay a sin debt when we wrong another person? What might be involved in the needed reconciliation (Matthew 5:24)?

--Where does the grace of forgiveness come in to play when we have been wronged (Matthew 6:12)?

--Compare Matthew 6:14-15 with Matthew 18:21-35. What do you think it means that the Father will not forgive someone who does not forgive others?

3. James 1:12-15 draws a close connection between temptation and testing.

--What does James suggest turns a situation of "testing" into "temptation"?

--When Jesus tells us to pray for deliverance from "the evil (one)", what is implied about Satan's role in testing/temptation?

--In Matthew 4:1 Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested/tempted (same word as in 6:13). How does the experience of Jesus help us understand this combined request ("do not lead...deliver us...") as a prayer for victory over sin?

NEXT WEEK: "Calling on the Name of the Lord," Genesis 4:26