

Points to Ponder - Discussion Questions from Sunday's Message

By Steve Hauser

“Lord, teach us to pray” (Part 2)

Pastor Mark Johnson

Text: Matthew 6:5-13

Summary: Within the Sermon on the Mount Jesus contrasts the righteous and the self-righteous. Jesus models how to pray. Pastor Mark explains the 6 petitions within the model prayer.

“Our Father” – Through Christ we are adopted.

1. “Hallowed be your name” – Sanctify God’s name by our living a holy life.
2. “Your kingdom come” - Manifest in our lives.
3. “May your will be done ... heaven” – In our lives perfectly.

I. Fourth principal of prayer: Prayer for provision. (Matt 6:11)

- Give us today our daily bread. (v. 11) We ask for just enough to take care of ourselves and anything more is the chance to demonstrate Christ’s generosity through us.
- Do you find this part of the prayer particularly difficult? If we limit our prayer requests for ourselves to our daily needs, how would this change our current prayer life? Why is this important?
- Matt. 6:19-21. Why do we need to be content with our daily provision? Where do we draw the line between being wise about our future and trusting God for our security.

II. Fifth principal of prayer: Prayer for pardon. (Matt 6:12)

- Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. Debt has two meanings in the context of what Jesus is saying, one of which is the literal meaning and the other is of sin. You cannot praise/worship God if you refuse to reconcile with another. We need to recognize the magnitude of God’s gift to us and reflect that in our forgiveness of others who sin against us.
- Matt. 6:14, Matt. 18:15-17, Matt. 18:21-35. Why is reconciliation so important? How does refusing to forgive interfere with our relationship with God? How willing are we to extend forgiveness time and time again? Do we have a special number where a person no longer receives forgiveness?

III. Sixth principal of prayer: Prayer for protection. (Matt. 6:13)

- “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” Temptation also is used as trial or test. A test has the potential for a good or bad outcome.
- During times of trial, how are we to pray? What promises can we rely on? What is our hope? How can we reconcile the idea that God will not give to us

more than we can bear but Christians do commit suicide?