

**PRAYING LIKE JESUS**

**Matthew 6:5-15**

**I. OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN**

- A. Who's Up There, Anyway?
  - 1. Is anyone up there at all? Does anyone care?
  - 2. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).
- B. Our Perfect Parent!
  - 1. What name should we call when we feel lost and afraid?
  - 2. "For Jesus, God was the Father we cry out for when we awake in the darkness ... God was the mother who dries our tears and kisses away our pain when we fall and skin our knee." (Mulholland)
- C. Communication Is the Key.
  - 1. I've known people who talk to their pets more than they talk to their kids or their spouse.
  - 2. In a household where family members talk with one another, there is life. The same is true with God.
- D. First Things First.
  - 1. Start with God! We usually begin with ourselves, talk about ourselves, and end up by ourselves.
  - 2. Jesus tells us, first of all, to forget about ourselves and to focus on our perfect parent.
  - 3. A visit to the Grand Canyon.

**II. HALLOWED BE THY NAME**

- A. Remember Who You Are Talking to.
  - 1. "Put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5).
  - 2. "Hallow" means respect and reverence.
- B. Praying Isn't Easy.
  - 1. Have you ever tried to pray, but your mind dries up?
  - 2. The first gesture to God must be a hand outstretched to God.
- C. Reveal Yourself to Me.
  - 1. "Hallow" also means, "Reveal yourself to me, O God."
  - 2. God reveals himself in at least four ways: creation, people, Jesus Christ, and prayer.

**III. THY KINGDOM COME**

- A. We're Taking a Vow.
  - 1. We're not asking God for anything. We're pledging our willingness to allow God's kingdom to be born in us.
  - 2. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is like ..." a seed, yeast, a hidden treasure, and a pearl of great price.
- B. The Upside-Down Kingdom.

**Prayer Concerns: Members** – Burney Biesel, Jeanette Boatright, Dan Fowlkes, Dr. Gordon Freeman, **Jack Hatcher**, Ruth Dale Hurt, **Maleia Lee**, Fay McDowell, Mary Jo Moore ... **Friends** – **Bobby Borden**, Pat Bryan, Bill Dean, Tina Gatlin, Joanna Grathwell, Kathy Greer, Jackson Ingram, Lucy Jones, Jeff Joyner, Kay Irvin, Ellen Kaplan, Lesli Kaplan, Dillon LaRue, Ron McMillan, Eddie Mae Schaeffer, Peggy Shipman, Mike Thompson, Shirley Waldron ...

### PASTORAL PRAYER

O Loving God, sometimes when life is hard, and each day difficult, we need someone to talk to. Sometimes when it hardly seems worth going on, and we are afraid, when we feel unloved and unloving and alone, how much we need someone to share our burdens.

If that is why you have given us the gift of worship, we thank you for it. Thank you for those who worship with us here, for the privilege of leaning on them for strength, and trusting them, and sharing with them, so that in this family of God, we are not alone.

If that is why you have given us the gift of prayer, thank you for this. Show us that we are always in your hands, and that there is never a loneliness so great that you are not with us, never a hurt so painful that your comfort is not there, never a guilt so heavy that your forgiveness cannot blot it out.

Then as we lay claim to that love in these moments, help us to accept ourselves for what we are, your children, who sometimes stumble and fall, who don't always know just where we're going, and who will always need your strength as we reach for life through it all.

Now guide our worship. Heal us where we are wounded; direct us where we are lost; renew us where we are without spirit. This we pray in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray ...

**THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### MATTHEW 6:5-15

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:

Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

### SERMON SCHEDULE

#### In the Sanctuary:

July 29	<i>Praying Like Jesus (Part 2)</i>	Matthew 5:9-15
August 5	<i>What's Worth Wanting?</i>	Luke 12:13-21
August 12	<i>True North Principles</i>	Luke 12:32-40
August 19	<i>Storm Warnings</i>	Luke 12:49-56

#### On the Radio (1450 AM):

July 29	<i>Ten Commandments to Grow By</i>	James 4:7-12
August 5	<i>Who's in Charge Here?</i>	James 4:13-17
August 12	<i>You Can't Take It with You</i>	James 5:1-6