

PRAYING LIKE JESUS (Part 2)
Matthew 6:9-15; 13:31-33, 44-50

I. 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.

II. 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.
 - 3. Notice that God taught his disciples to seek God’s kingdom and will before making their petitions and requests.
- B. The Upside-Down Kingdom.
 - 1. The kingdom of God points to an inverted way of life.
 - 2. In this kingdom, the first shall be last and the last first, the exalted will be humbled and the humbled will be exalted.

III. THY WILL BE DONE

- A. Oops! I’m Not Sure About This One.
 - 1. When I say “the will of God,” what does that bring to your mind?
 - 2. Do we really want to know the will of God for our lives?
- B. How Can We Know the Will of God?
 - 1. Many will never know!
 - 2. We must learn to listen.
 - a. When we talk to God we only say something we already know. When we listen, we learn what God knows.
 - b. We must believe that whatever God does or wants to do is good.

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, Dyole Davis, Robert Lee, 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 God, as we come here today, we rejoice that we can find you in moments of worship, in times when our hearts are bound together with others who share our journey. We thank you for the Bible, which offers us as much truth as we are able to hold, and guides us in the way. Its word is as old as Adam, and yet its message is as fresh as this morning, and through its teachings we can be led to life. Help us then to study it, and learn it, and live by it.

We confess that our problem is not that we don't know your will for our lives, because your word tells us that. Our problem is that we don't always do what we know is best. So give us resolution so that we might put to work what we already know.

We pray now for all those who need the comfort and assurance your word brings. If they themselves do not find it by reading your word, remind us that our lives may be the only Bible this careless world will read, the only source of comfort. Give us faithfulness and compassion as we respond to that, for our prayer is in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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 13:31-33, 44-50

Another parable he put before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened..."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net which was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind; when it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous, and throw them into the furnace of fire; there men will weep and gnash their teeth."

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

August 5	<i>Praying Like Jesus (Part3)</i>	Matthew 5:9-15
August 12	<i>What's Worth Wanting?</i>	Luke 12:13-21
August 19	<i>True North Principles</i>	Luke 12:32-40
August 26	<i>Storm Warnings</i>	Luke 12:49-56

On the Radio (1450 AM):

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
August 19	<i>We Interrupt This Broadcast</i>	James 5:7-12
August 26	<i>Tell Me Where It Hurts</i>	James 5:13-20