

Lord Teach Us to Pray (10) The Prayer of Protection

Mt. 6:13

Introduction: We have been learning to pray because frankly as Paul put it we have a problem; “*We do not know what we ought to pray for,...*” (Rom 8:26) Where do we learn how and for what to pray? God’s Word. And in God’s Word we find Jesus’ teaching on prayer. We need this because too often we are praying self-centered prayers, or for our own desires (Js. 4:3) or not out of faith (Js. 1:6). Many times, we are praying for things we already have from God.

So, we need this model for prayer Jesus is teaching us to guide us into right, powerful, and effectual praying that avails much! (Js. 5:16) As we enter into this final phase of the model, we learn that *Prayer is about not just glorify the Lord, it is about relying on the Lord.* While that sounds so simple and common sense to us: The truth is, that in the greatest battle of life, we need to learn to rely on Him, for therein lies the secret of our victory! As we wrap this series up, I want us to see several things, first...

I. Note the contrast for our praying: Jesus has taught us to pray in complete contrast to those of His (and our) day.

A. The hypocrite prayed... Loud, obnoxious, prayers attempting to promote their own spirituality and to impress men and God. (Cf. v.5)

B. The pagans prayed... ritualistic, mindless, mechanical prayers (Cf.v.7) So... The caution to us is our prayers can fall into one or both of these categories if our heart is not in it, and our focus is not where it should be.

II. Note the central focus of our praying: In order to prevent our prayers from falling into these categories Jesus reminds us;

A. In Prayer, there needs to be a death to selfishness, and mindless contentless prayer; instead, our praying needs to have a complete focus on God and exalting Him!

B. Our prayers are not to be mouth centered – they are to be heart and mind centered on God!

In other words when we pray – Jesus is teaching us we are to focus on God and what is true of Him, and the focus of our prayer is to glorify God.

III. Note the criteria for our praying – In order to know the truth about God

we need to let the scriptures form our knowledge of Him (so that we don’t have a wrong view of Him and thus pray wrong prayers to Him.)

Listen to the danger of not doing this: Rom 1:21-32

A. When we have the opportunity to truly know God for Who He is, and His truth, and we choose not to (*not only do we put our prayer life in jeopardy, but we also put our whole life in harm’s way...*)

Why does Paul make such horrific accusations? [Because] Although they could know the truth about God and who He is as well as His righteous decrees, instead, they choose to ignore Him and His truth!

1. Those who do such things, will just continue to do these very things, and approve of those who practice them.

2. In doing so, they will continue to live on dangerous ground and pray misguided and wrong prayers.

B. When we don’t seek to know the truth about God through the truth of His word – it can have a devastating effect on us and our prayers!

1. The more we study scripture, the more and better we know the God of the Word, and the Word of God.

2. The more and better we know our God, and His word, the more meaningful our prayers will be. (Rom. 8:5; Col. 3:16-17)

IV. Note the claims found in our praying: Notice,

every petition in this prayer promises something God has already guaranteed –

A. This is not a prayer for God to do something for us He doesn’t want to do – Some people treat prayer like a negotiation –

B. This is a prayer where we are claiming what God has already promised to provide -

The more we understand God and the promises of God, the richer our prayers will become!

V. Note the conditions formed for our praying: I must not only pray it I must practice what I pray! If I am going to experience answers to my prayers, I must put feet to my prayers! (Js. 1:22)

VI. Note the conclusion found for our praying: Jesus has taught us through this model for prayer – that prayer is not about getting what we want, *but about getting us to want what God wants.* So, we come to this final petition noting This is a petition for protection –Note (v. 12) deals with my past sins and *verse 13 deals with our future sins.*

1. God has judicially dealt with all my sins in the past through Christ – past, present, and future.) the moment I profess my faith in Christ, I was eternally forgiven and adopted into the family of God! (Jn. 1:12; Rom. 8:14-17; 2 Cor. 6:18; Gal. 4:5-6; Eph. 1:5; Heb. 12:5-9; 1 Jn. 3:1)

2. Parentally – I have a personal relationship with the Father as His child. Who is the keeper of the relationship? The Father. (Jn 10:2-29)

Who is responsible for maintaining my fellowship with the Father? (*I am!*) (Mt. 5:23,24; 1 Jn 1:9) This is where (v. 13 comes in...) (*v. 13 deals with our future sin... Because I know I will sin again... A true believer should be as concerned about their future sin being avoided, as they are about their past sins being forgiven.*

a. This is a petition for protection - (Js. 1:2, 13-15) Lord protect me from my self *I will lead myself into temptation if You don’t help me!*) and (*Lord, if you can spare me the trials do it... but if I have to go through one protect me from the evil, one while I’m in it!*) (cf. Mt. 15:16-19; Gen. 50:20)

b. It’s a petition with a problem – (There are two immediate problems: *With every trial or temptation – there is a possibility it could turn into temptation...*

c. It’s a petition with a promise – God can and will protect us when we call upon Him! And He made us this promise (1 Cor. 10:13) (Cf. Ps. 50:15; 145:18; Ac. 2:21; Phil. 4:13; 1 Jn. 4:4)

What we have just studied together is a model for prayer with promises we can believe and be confident to ask the Lord to fulfill in and through us!