

# The Lord's Prayer Part 2.

Over the last 2 weeks I have been talking about the couple of books that I read whilst on sabbatical, **How to Pray** by Pete Greig and **Total Forgiveness** by R.T. Kendall. Both books talk about the Lord's Prayer, amongst other things, and why we should pray this prayer on a regular basis. Last week I spoke about the opening 2 verses **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come; Your Will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

This morning I would like to share my thoughts on the rest of the pray, that Jesus gave us. **'Give us today our daily bread'.**

I have had many conversations with people over the years with Christians and non-Christians alike, about how we, as a society strive for the next shiny gadget that is on the market. Is that wrong? Well if it enhances the Gospel then No, I do not suppose it is, but if it is just for my or your own gratification then I think Yes it might be.

God knows what we need before we do but He wants us to ask Him for our needs. That is how prayer works. Through prayer God helps us to understand His answer which may or may not be, what we asked for. To get our 'Daily bread', we need to approach Him, like asking anyone for something, we need to open our mouth and ask.

If we stand in a queue in a shop and not say anything, we could be standing there a long time and not be served. When the shop assistant says, 'can I help you' the normal response is 'Yes please'.

In asking God for our 'daily needs' we need to ask, then need to trust Him that He will give it to us. It is no good asking and not trusting, because if we do not trust then we get disillusioned and possibly lose focus and try and provide for ourselves. God wants us to trust Him for all our needs, and He will only give us 'our needs' and not 'our wants', so be careful what you pray for.

**'Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors'.**

This is a big challenge for many of us. Reading R.T. Kendall's book on **Total Forgiveness** (highly recommend it), challenged me as I thought that I was a forgiving person. But then I realised that while I can forgive big issues very quickly, it is the small issues that keep creeping back into my mind. Thoughts like, 'why do I have to put up with this stuff (for want of a better word) when that person is getting away with everything they have done.'

More often than not, the hurt comes from within the Christian family, where you know you have to forgive, because that is what Jesus told us to do, but really all you want to do is get even. We can all justify our feelings of revenge when we have been hurt, I have been doing it for years, but Jesus says, 'don't do that'.

Jesus also says, as we ask for forgiveness, we should also forgive those who have hurt us. I do not know if you have heard the saying that unforgiveness is like 'drinking a cup of rat poison expecting the rat to die,' when put like that, why don't we forgive quicker??

Unforgiveness is incredibly toxic for our health and God only wants the best for us. Jesus speaks to our self-interest to help us understand the importance of forgiveness if we do not forgive people God will not forgive us!

**‘And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one’.**

Temptation can be ‘in your face obvious’ or ‘incredibly subtle’.

The thing is we can see the ‘obvious’ when it comes to temptation, and as hard as it maybe, we can, with some self-control resist if we really want to. The subtle temptation is a little different. If we are honest with ourselves, we can see the temptation, and if we have had a hard time, (as in struggling with lockdown), we treat ourselves thinking we deserve it.

That may not be a bad thing occasionally, but if done on a regular basis could cause issues. Jesus knows what we are going through, He was tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1-11). The interesting point here is satan did not tempt Jesus at the start of His forty days in the desert, He tempted Him at the end of the forty days and nights, when He was hungry and at His most vulnerable.

**4:2-3, ‘After forty days and forty nights He (Jesus) was hungry. The tempter came and said, “if you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”**

**v3. ‘Jesus answered, “It is written ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’**

Satan has been tempting since the beginning of time, he is good at it, Gen 3:1b as the serpent talks to Eve, **“Did God really say, ‘you must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”**, and we all know what happened next.

When we are most vulnerable that is when the temptation raises its ugly head, when we least expect it, it strikes. God knows what is good for us and He does not want us to struggle by satan’s tempting, which inevitably leads us away from God if we allow it to.

**‘For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever Amen.’**

If you look in your Bible you will see that this part of the prayer is missing. In Matthew, the prayer ends with ‘deliver us from evil’, but in Luke 11:2-4, the prayer ends with ‘and lead us not into temptation.’ This can be confusing to new Christians as many of us have learnt the Lord’s Prayer from our school days which includes ‘For thine is the Kingdom. So, did both Matthew and Luke forget to put it in? No, they did not.

There seems to be two major reasons among Biblical scholars: One, involves how the Bible was handed down before achieving its modern written form, and the other, points to Queen Elizabeth I, whose subjects in the 1500s wanted to differentiate the Church of England from the Roman Catholic Church, which had excommunicated her father, King Henry VIII.

The last part of this prayer is known as a “doxology,” a short hymnlike verse that praises the glory of God. That is what this final line in the Lord’s Prayer is.

Some scholars say it may have been borrowed from King David's exultation of God at I Chronicles 29:4-19, which says, in part, **"Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory and the victory and the majesty.... thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all."**

At the end of the day.... whether you say the version in Matthew, Luke or the one you were taught in school, at least we are praying, and that is what the Lord wants us to do. We need to remember that the Lord's Prayer is a pattern of how to pray. It can be used as a prayer, and, or a pattern of prayer to help us connect with Father God. But in praying we must remember to pause to listen for God's answer, which maybe instant, or not!

In future I will try and put sermons on YouTube for those of you that like to hear rather than read the sermon. I will send you the link as and when I am successful.

May God bless you and keep you at this time.

Blessings

Mike