

3/17/2024—Matthew 6:11-13—Jesus' Kingdom Prayer: Part 2

I. Context

- a. Only after the first part of the disciple's prayer do we get to the part that focuses on self
- b. Focusing first on God helps one to get perspective of her own needs
- c. Without the first part, one's prayers may well become dictated by greedy desires

II. Our daily bread

- a. Bread represents all of the believers' needs (spiritual and physical) (Neals book-Mexicans)
- b. Disciples are to rely on God for all of their needs
- c. Distinguish between needs and wants
 - i. It's okay to pray for desires (*Psalms 37:4*) but be willing to search self and conform desires to the Lord

III. Forgive us our debts...as we forgive our debtors

- a. This is the greatest need of humanity, yet in recent times it has been deemphasized by both Christian and secular thinking
- b. This human heart longs for forgiveness
- c. Debts versus Trespasses versus sins; which is it?
 - i. Debt is a literal translation from Matthew—debt used as an analogy for sin
 - ii. Luke 11:4 uses term sin; 'trespasses' seems to be a loose translation of sin (trespassing is like the idea of wandering)
- d. The flip-side—a forgiven person reflects this by forgiving others
 - i. You cannot accept God's forgiveness if you're unwilling to forgive others

IV. Lead us not into temptation...but deliver us from evil (or the evil one)

- a. Reminder that life is a spiritual battle; humans have a real enemy in Satan
- b. Evil is real and we cannot deny it; but we can also be confident of our victory over it in Christ
- c. We need to be praying for protection for ourselves and each other (c.f. Eph 6:10-20)
- d. Paraphrase: Enable us to pass through safely the testing of our faith

V. Where is the ending?

- a. The original bible did not have the doxological ending: for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever; it was added on in later manuscripts
- b. Reflects the early church adapting the prayer for liturgical use; perhaps based on *1 Chronicles 29:11*

VI. So what?

- a. Our heavenly Father is all-loving and all-powerful, turn to Him in prayer!
- b. We can and should pray for our needs and desires, but we also need to develop a fuller prayer life; Jesus' prayer helps us to recognize the real needs of humanity, particularly forgiveness and the need to forgive.