

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Sermon on the Mount
Title: HALLOWED
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Date: May 1, 2022



WARM-UP

The Lord's Prayer is the core prayer that the disciples of Jesus should pray. We will certainly enrich our discipleship in learning to pray as Jesus taught his disciples. Jesus' instructions before the prayer (6:5-8) are very beneficial in learning to pray. Open your discussion by reflecting on the points that Jesus makes to all disciples and how these could benefit your prayer journey?

DISCUSSION

1. Now pray the Lord's Prayer in short phrases. Be still and listen to the voice of God... then respond back to God in prayer with your group:

"Our Father in heaven": Be still and listen...resting into the mystery of God as "Abba" - "Daddy." Now, pray to "Abba" with words that you would - or would want to speak to your good earthly father...(pray)

"hallowed be your name": Be still and listen..."Abba, cause your great and holy name to be honored and revered and esteemed and treasured above all things everywhere in the world...and my heart...(pray)"

"your kingdom come": Be still and listen..."Abba, cause your glorious, sovereign, kingly rule to have power without obstruction everywhere in the world...and in my heart...(pray)"

"your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven": Be still and listen..."Abba, cause your all-wise, all-good, all-just, all-holy will to be done all over this world the way the angels do it perfectly and joyfully in heaven...and in me...(pray)"

DISCUSSION

“Give us today our daily bread”: Be still and listen...”Abba, I am not asking for the reward of being independently wealthy...I am asking for bread...just enough to give me life. I want to live...I want to be healthy, and to have a body and a mind that work...(pray)”

“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors”: Be still and listen...”Abba, I am a sinner and need to be forgiven everyday. I can’t live and flourish with guilt...I will die if I have to bear my guilt every day. I have no desire to hold any grudge. I know I don’t deserve your forgiveness, and so I have no right to withhold forgiveness from anyone. I let go of all the offenses against me. Please, have mercy upon me and forgive me and let me live in the freedom of your love...(pray)”

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one”: Be still and listen...”Abba, I don’t want to go on sinning. I’m thankful for forgiveness, but, Father, I don’t want to sin... Please, don’t lead me into the snags of overpowering temptation. Deliver me from evil...guard me from Satan and from all his works and all his ways. Grant me to walk in holiness...(pray)”

2. Jesus gives a concluding exhortation on forgiveness to the disciples (6:14-15). Why does Jesus attach this to this core prayer?

3. If you have time, reflect more deeply on this exhortation:

The statement in verses 14-15 is addressed to a group of people (“you” plural). What do you think this means? Why? Do you think of forgiveness as something people do individually, or collectively, as a group? Why?

If we had to think about forgiveness as something we must or can do as a group, how would it be the same as forgiveness that we do individually? How would it be different? What kinds of things would this forgiveness be offered or asked for? What would it mean to be part of a group like that?