

## **"The Danger of Hypocrisy"**

### **Part 9**

#### **Matthew 6:1-18**

**Introduction:** Tonight we have returned to our study of the Sermon on the Mount in which we have been looking at what many refer to as the "Lord's Prayer". Many people gather on Sundays and they recite this passage in their worship service or they sing this passage and there is nothing wrong with praying this passage or putting music to the passage. But the problem is many do not understand what Jesus is teaching in these verses.

#### **Notice Matthew 6:9-13**

These verses are not given for us to recite over and over again but they are given as an outline for us to build our prayers upon. Jesus disciples needed to be taught how to pray and this passage is the Lord's instruction to them as to how they were to pray. It was not a prayer for them to repeat over and over again it is an outline for prayer.

Here is the outline which we have been using to study this passage:

- I. **The Seniority of God** - *"Our Father which art in heaven"*
- II. **The Supremacy of God** - *"Hallowed be thy name"*
- III. **The System of God** - *"Thy kingdom come"*
- IV. **The Scheme of God** - *"Thy will be done"*
- V. **The Supply of God** - *"Give us this day our daily bread"*
- VI. **The Security of God** - *"And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors"*

VII. **The Safety of God** - *"And lead us not into temptation"*

VIII. **The Sovereignty of God** - *"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen"*

In our study so far we have looked at the first 3 points of the outline.

### **I. The Seniority of God**

**"Our Father which art in heaven"** - God is not just our Creator, Judge, King, Counselor, Mighty God and Priest. He is also our Father. This is why we are able to come boldly into His presence.

### **II. The Supremacy of God**

**"Hallowed be thy name"** - This is the very first petition mentioned in the outline and there is a reason why it is the first petition. To pray for God's name to be hallowed is to pray that His character would be made known through our lives. In other words this is to pray that with whatever you face or whatever I face people would see Christ in us when they watch us in the midst of the storms. Let me show you some verses that I read this past week that put forth this very idea:

#### **Psalm 71:18**

<sup>18</sup> *Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.*

#### **Psalm 92:1-3**

*It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High:*

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<sup>2</sup> To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,

<sup>3</sup> Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound.

## **2 Corinthians 3:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

<sup>3</sup> Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Paul told the believers at Corinth their lives were living letters for all to read about the power of God.

To pray for God's name to be hallowed is to pray that when others see us they would see God's character in us.

Now the reason this is the very first petition is because if we do not desire to hallow the name of God then we will not be concerned with the next 2 petitions which focus upon the kingdom of God and the will of God. We must first have a desire within our hearts to hallow the name of God in whatever we face.

### **III. The System of God**

**"Thy kingdom come"** - Last week we considered how as believers we are not to be consumed with the kingdoms of this world but instead we are to be consumed with God's kingdom. There are believers who become completely consumed with preserving this nation and the constitution and in so doing they do very little to advance God's kingdom.

## **Matthew 6:33**

*<sup>33</sup> But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

**God's kingdom can be seen in two ways:**

- 1. There is the spiritual kingdom which exists in the hearts of all believers.**
- 2. There is the physical kingdom that will be established at the end of the Great Tribulation.**

To pray for God's kingdom to come is to pray first of all for the salvation of the lost. There is only one thing that will turn this country around and that is the Gospel finding a home in the hearts of people. To pray for God's kingdom to come is to pray for people to get saved so that God's kingdom will rule in their hearts. Secondly to pray for God's kingdom to come is to pray for the return of the King Who will establish His kingdom.

To have this attitude of prayer for God's kingdom is to like pilgrims in this world.

## **IV. The Scheme of God**

***"Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven"***

Now we have come to the 3<sup>rd</sup> petition in the outline for prayer and this petition is focused upon God's will.

There are several thoughts which come to my mind as soon as I read this petition.

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Understanding that this is an outline for each individual believer to build his or her prayer on, we come to realize from this statement that whatever we are facing in our lives we are to be praying that God's would be done.

Praying God's will sounds easy but it can be very difficult if we find ourselves faced with a situation which we feel we have no control over. If the situation that surrounds you is one of happiness or prosperity then you have no problem bowing your head and asking for God's will to be done. But if you are facing a situation where there is pain, sorrow, and loss involved then it is much harder to pray that God's will would be done because we don't know how God may answer that prayer. But we must understand that it is always God's will that is best for our lives.

### **Romans 12:1-2**

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

*<sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Paul tells us that God's will is good, acceptable, and perfect. Let us break this down so that we can understand what he means here.

#### **1. It is good.**

It is Satan who tells us that God's will is not good for us. He will convince everyone that will listen that to live in God's will cost you many pleasures. Let me give you some of his lies:

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- a. You will never be happy there.
- b. You will never have enough to make ends meet.
- c. You will always struggle.
- d. Others will prosper more than you.
- e. You will miss out on so much.

God's will is the best place we can be because it is living in God's will that pleases God. It is in the will of God where we accomplish that which counts for eternity. Outside of God's will is wasted time in our lives.

I want to show you the dangers of walking outside of the will of God.

After Abram was called to leave for Canaan he took his family and departed. He was not in Canaan long until his faith was tested with the famine. It was then he stepped out of the will of God and went to Egypt.

### **Genesis 12:5-10**

*<sup>5</sup> And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.*

*<sup>6</sup> And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.*

*<sup>7</sup> And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.*

*<sup>8</sup> And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east:*

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*and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.*

*<sup>9</sup> And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.*

*<sup>10</sup> And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.*

After Abram was in Egypt for a short time his lie was uncovered and Abram was escorted from the land of Egypt by Pharaoh and his military.

### **Genesis 12:18-20**

*<sup>18</sup> And Pharaoh called Abram and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?*

*<sup>19</sup> Why saidst thou, She is my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way.*

*<sup>20</sup> And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.*

Now I want you to notice where Abram found himself after he departed from Egypt.

### **Genesis 13:1-3**

*And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.*

*<sup>2</sup> And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.*

*<sup>3</sup> And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai;*

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He ended up at the place where he was at the beginning which means he gained nothing.

But that was not all of the problems that would come from living outside the will of God.

### **Genesis 13:7-12**

*<sup>7</sup> And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.*

*<sup>8</sup> And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.*

*<sup>9</sup> Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.*

*<sup>10</sup> And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.*

*<sup>11</sup> Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.*

*<sup>12</sup> Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.*

Not only was his time in Egypt wasted time but his time there had a negative influence on Lot and when given a choice he chose the land toward Sodom that reminded him of Egypt.

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The consequences of stepping out of God's will would later show up in Abram's life in Genesis 16.

### **Genesis 16:1-4**

*Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.*

*<sup>2</sup> And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.*

*<sup>3</sup> And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.*

*<sup>4</sup> And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived:*

### **2. It is acceptable.**

The idea here is that whatever God's will is for us it will always be something we can accept. This is a word of encouragement for those who are preparing to step out in faith.

His "will", will never be something we cannot handle. Whatever God's will is there will always be enough grace for us to accept it and live in it.

Remember when Paul requested three times that his thorn in the flesh be removed? Notice God's answer.

### **2 Corinthians 12:7-9**

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*<sup>7</sup> And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

*<sup>8</sup> For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*

*<sup>9</sup> And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee**: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

*<sup>10</sup> Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

### **3. It is perfect.**

God has a will for each of our lives and His will is perfect for each of us. There may be pain and there may be tears in the will of God but we must remember that His will for us is for our good and His glory.

#### **Conclusion:**

Below is a circle inside of a circle. Next week we will talk more about these circles and what they mean. But I want you to know that the center of this circle is where God desires that we live it is His revealed will. We can step out of His revealed will but we can never go beyond his sovereign will. We have a responsibility to know and remain in His revealed will. Jesus said we are to pray for God's will to be done on earth. That starts will His will in our lives.

