

"The Danger of Hypocrisy "

Part 11

Matthew 6:1-18

Introduction: Tonight we return to our study of the greatest sermon that has ever been preached. It is the Sermon on the Mount and it was preached by Jesus Christ. Within this sermon we have been looking closely at Jesus' instructions to His disciples concerning prayer.

Notice Matthew 6:9-13

This is the passage we have been examining very closely. This is a passage that is greatly misunderstood by many people. This is not a prayer given to His disciples to repeat over and over again but it is an outline for all of God's people to build their prayers upon. So far we have considered 4 points of the outline:

- 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"*

Now tonight in our study we have come to the 5th point of our outline.

V. The Supply of God

Matthew 6:11

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

When we first look at this petition if we are not careful we may quickly skip on to the next and miss some very valuable spiritual Truth found in this statement. Let us take some time and look closely at this verse.

1. The placement of the petition.

This 4th petition is placed in the outline after the first 3 petitions which focus upon God. This tells me that as I live my life I am to be focused more on God's name being hallowed, His kingdom being advanced, and His will being carried out than I am about my own basic needs.

The word "food" in this verse refers to our basic necessities for everyday life and the placement of this petition is in this order so that we might have the proper perspective as we go through this world.

The idea behind the order of these petitions is that as kingdom people we are no longer to be living for ourselves but we are to be living for God and His Kingdom.

Matthew 6:33

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

Let us notice the example that was set by our Lord.

John 4:31-35

³¹ In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.

³² But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.

³³ Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat?

³⁴ Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

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³⁵ Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

When Jesus walked on this earth His top priority in His life was the will of the Father.

Application: Let me make a broad application here that I believe needs to be made. Our "appetites" should never be placed in front of God's will. I am not just speaking of the "appetites" of your belly; I am also speaking of the "appetites" of the flesh. If we are living a life that is honoring to God and a life that hallows His name then His Kingdom and His will will have top priority in our lives. This again is all about dying to self.

People living for the "appetites" of the flesh are a sign of the end of the age.

Matthew 24:37-38

³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

*³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were **eating and drinking**, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,*

The words "eating and drinking" are a reference to living for the desires of the flesh. The idea is that the people of Noah's day were so consumed for living for themselves they never allowed the message of Noah to penetrate their hearts. Jesus said it will be the same way when He returns at the end of the Great Tribulation.

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This is exactly what we see with many people today even believers. Believers get so caught up in personal desires and appetites that they are clearly missing the opportunities to serve God all around them. Also they are missing the urgency of the moment. We are running out of time and one of these days a new age will be ushered in known as the Great Tribulation and it will be too late.

Let's get back to the main thought again. The placement of this petition helps us to understand how our lives are to be prioritized.

2. The focus of the petition.

Give us this day our daily bread.

When I read this petition I am reminded that I am not to be concerned about my needs for tomorrow or for next week but I am to pray that God will meet my needs for the very day that I am in.

How many times have we worried about what was going to happen tomorrow or next week or even months down the road? Then when we finally arrived at the day we were so worried about it all came together and all of our worry was for nothing.

Let me remind you and myself of something very important; faith stops where worry starts. When we are worried about something that tomorrow holds or next week holds then we are not trusting in God to meet our needs.

Why do you think Jesus told his disciples to pray only for their daily needs?

Because Jesus desired for them to enjoy the day they were in and to serve Him every day they lived. When we worry about tomorrow or

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when we worry about something that may happen next week it does 2 things:

a. It robs us of present joy in our lives.

We have so much to be thankful for in our lives but when we worry about the future we are blinded to the blessings that surround us every day.

b. It robs us of the peace which comes from trusting in God with whatever we face.

Isaiah 26:3

³ Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Philippians 4:6

⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

When we worry about something we have not surrendered the situation over to God and therefore we have no peace about the situation. Peace comes from surrender and it also comes from dying to self and living for God.

3. The message in the petition.

Give us this day our daily bread.

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When I read this petition I see a message behind the words on the paper. The message is that God is the Supplier of all of our needs.

Have you ever stopped and thought about all which God has given to us?

Let's consider food for an example. There are herbs, fruits, nuts, vegetables, grains, fish, fowl, beef, lamb, pork, venison, eggs, milk, water, and the list goes on and on but the point is that God has given us so much with so much variety.

Everything we have is from God somehow and in some way. Some people say that earned what they have and God gave them nothing. They seem to be ignorant that God gives them the breath to breathe, He gives to them the strength to rise in the morning, even the money they have is made from the trees God gave or if it is coins it has come from mineral deposits in the ground. The clothing we wear is made from that which God has given to us. Someone may claim they are wearing double knit and it is manmade. The product may be manmade but God provided the base product for man to use. Double knit is a petroleum base material and that petroleum came from God. There is nothing that we have that God has not provided.

Let me show you some verses that support the Truth that God is our Provider.

Psalm 37:25

²⁵ I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

2 Corinthians 9:8

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⁸ *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

Philippians 4:19

¹⁹ *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

James 1:17

¹⁷ *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

4. The life lesson from the petition.

Give us this day our daily bread.

There is one more thought that I want to take from this petition. We are to ask for only that which we need for the day. In other words we are to learn to be content in this life with what we have and not always desiring to get more. Too many times believers get caught up in the world's philosophy that to be happy you must have lots of this world's wealth. That is nothing but a lie.

The writer of Proverbs 30 had the proper perspective on the wealth of this world.

Proverbs 30:8-9

⁸ *Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:*

⁹ *Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.*

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The writer of this Psalm feared that if he had too much he would become less dependent upon the Lord. So when he prayed he asked for neither poverty nor riches but he desired to live somewhere in between. Now please don't miss what this writer was communicating here; his relationship with God was far more important than the wealth of this world. All he desired was enough to keep him dependent upon his God.

Application: There is something here that we must touch on because it is so important. The lack of contentment and the desire to get more wealth is one of the most effective distractions of the enemy. If Satan can get a believer to think he or she needs more he will then accomplish his goal which is to get that believer distracted with the desire to have more which will take them away from serving God.

Philippians 4:11-13

¹¹ Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Conclusion: We are to pray for God to meet our needs on a daily basis but we are not to pray motivated by the desire of personal gain. The motivation behind our prayers should be that as our needs are met God will be glorified. Let us take what we have learned in this outline and put it together:

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We are to pray God will provide for our needs for the day we are facing and as He does so we are to ask that His character is made known through us, that His Kingdom is advanced around us and as He supplies our needs and through it all that His will would be done.