

"The Danger of Hypocrisy"

Part 13

Matthew 6:1-18

Introduction: Last week in our study of the Sermon on the Mount we continued our look at the outline of prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. We looked at the 5th petition of the outline which is the 2nd petition that deals with us.

Notice Matthew 6:9-13

This has been our study for quite some time on Wednesday evenings. These verses are found in the middle of a section in which Jesus spoke to His disciples about the danger of hypocrisy. In Matthew 6:1-18 Jesus uses the word "hypocrites" 3 times. The word is found in verses 2, 5, and 16. Each time the word is used it is used as a warning against hypocrisy in 3 separate practices of the believer's life.

It is used to warn against hypocrisy in:

1. Giving (6:1-4)
2. Praying (6:5-15)
3. Fasting (6:16-18)

It is interesting that Jesus used 4 verses to speak on giving, 3 verses to speak on fasting, and 11 verses to cover the subject of prayer. Then in the middle of the section dealing with prayer Jesus sets aside 5 verses to teach His disciples how to pray. All of this helps us to see the importance of prayer in our lives. Prayer is communion with God and when our communion with God is right then our giving will be right and our self control (fasting) will be right also.

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Therefore, if prayer is so important then it is very important that we know how to pray and that is the purpose of the time we have been spending on Matthew 6:9-13.

So far we have considered 6 points of our 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"*
- 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"*

Now when we stopped last week I left you with this thought, there are two kinds of forgiveness in the Bible.

- 1. Judicial - (salvation)
- 2. Parental - (fellowship)

Judicial refers to our salvation which is **complete** in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. It was by grace through faith that you and I were saved from the penalty and the power of sin.

We did nothing to earn our salvation and we can do nothing to lose our salvation. In Jesus Christ we are forever secure.

Hebrews 10:10-12

¹⁰ *By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

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¹¹ *And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:*

¹² ***But this man**, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins **for ever**, sat down on the right hand of God;*

Hebrews 10:14

¹⁴ *For by one offering he hath perfected **for ever** them that are sanctified.*

Hebrews 10:17

¹⁷ *And their sins and iniquities will I remember **no more**.*

Hebrews 7:24-25

²⁴ *But this man [Jesus], because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.*

²⁵ *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing **he ever liveth to make intercession for them**.*

John 10:27-29

²⁷ *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

²⁸ *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall **never perish**, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

²⁹ *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and **no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand**.*

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The prayer here in Matthew 6:12 is not a prayer of salvation and it is not a prayer that must be prayed to be saved a 2nd time because if you were saved then you are always saved.

The prayer of confession here in Matthew 6:12 is dealing with "fellowship". It is dealing with parental forgiveness.

Once you are saved you are born into the family of God and God is now your Father. That can never change because you can never be unborn but when we sin our fellowship with God is broken. The sin of a believer affects his or her fellowship with God but it does not affect our relationship. No matter how far a believer falls God is still His Father.

Notice Matthew 6:9

This verse is proof we cannot lose our salvation because the person praying the pray can address God as their Father and then 5 petitions later confess their sins. If we lost our salvation we could not call God Father! So this petition is all about restoring our fellowship with our Father.

A. The Effects of Sin in the Believer's Life

- 1. Loss of joy** - Someone said to me a while back, "A believer can fall into the same sins as an unbeliever but there is one thing the believer cannot do, and that is enjoy the sin."

I want to take you back to the life of David and show you what he experienced when he fell into the sin of adultery and the sin of murder.

2 Samuel 12:13

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13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

When David was confronted by Nathan he confessed his sin and Nathan told him God had forgiven him.

After this confession David wrote about his experience in Psalm 51

Psalm 51:14

14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

This verse is so important for it shows us that even after David's sin God was still the God of David's salvation. In other words David did not lose his salvation. But he did lose something when he sinned which he longed to have back again.

Psalm 51:10-12

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

David had lost his joy because of the sin which he committed. The closeness which was once between David and God was not there while he harbored the sin within his heart. A believer can fall into the darkness of sin but he or she will never be able to enjoy that life style.

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The conviction from the Holy Spirit will strip every ounce of joy from your life.

The Apostle John knew the joy of walking in fellowship with the Lord and it was his desire that every one of his readers would walk in that same joy.

1 John 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

² (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

⁴ And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

How do we maintain that joy?

1 John 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Some people teach that since we have eternal salvation then there is really no need to confess our sins to God because we are covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.

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It is true we are covered by the blood but in order to walk in fellowship with the Lord we must confess to Him when we sin. David wrote Psalm 32 which will help us to see the need for confession.

Psalm 32:1-5

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

² Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

³ When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

⁴ For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

⁵ I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

David completely understood he was forgiven but he still saw the need of confession.

Let us notice what Jesus taught His disciples in John 13.

John 13:4-15

⁴ He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

⁵ After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

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⁶ Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

⁷ Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

⁸ Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

⁹ Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

¹⁰ Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

¹¹ For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

¹² So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

¹³ Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

There is within this scene of humility by our Lord a beautiful picture of confession. The disciples were clean in the sense that they had been saved with the exception of Judas. But as they traveled in their daily journeys they would gather much dirt on their feet. This dirt would need to be washed off when they arrived at someone's home.

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As we go through this world as believers we are eternally secure in Christ but on this path there is sin which attaches to us from this world. This is then cleansed away as we confess our sins.

Conclusion:

I want to finish with 2 thoughts:

- 1. God is eager for us to confess our sins on a daily bases.**

Nehemiah 9:16-17

¹⁶ But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments,

*¹⁷ And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but **thou art a God ready to pardon**, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.*

Micah 7:18

*¹⁸ Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because **he delighteth in mercy.***

No matter how many times we fail God never refuses to cleanse us as we confess our sins to Him.

- 2. A true believer would never take advantage of God's forgiveness.**

Those who oppose the doctrine of eternal security say it is a doctrine that encourages people to live in sin. I say that the opposite is true.

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When you grasp the love God has for us it will make you desire to live a life that pleases Him. I came across a story that I want to finish with.

"A certain man had lived a life of great sin and immorality but had converted and eventually come to marry a fine Christian woman. He had confided to her the nature of his past life in just a few words as he had told her these things the wife had taken his head in her hands. And she drew him to her shoulder and kissed him gently and said, John, I want you to understand something very plainly. I know my Bible well and therefore I know the subtlety of sin and the devices of sin that work in the human heart. I know you are a thoroughly converted man, John, but I know that you still have a sin nature. And that you are not yet fully instructed in the ways of God but that you will be. The devil will do all he can to wreck your Christian life. He will see to it that temptations of every kind are put in your way. And the day might come, John, please God that it never does, but it might come when you succumb to temptation and fall into sin. And, John, immediately the devil will tell you it's no use trying. You might as well continue on your way and sin and above all he'll tell you not to tell me because it will hurt me. But, John, I want you to know that there is a home for you in my arms. When I married you I married your old nature as well as your new nature. And I want you to know there is full pardon and full forgiveness in advance for any evil that ever comes into your life. The man lifted up his eyes reverently, and said, "My God, if anything could ever keep a man straight, that kind of forgiving love in advance would sure do it."

This is exactly the way God sees our relationship with Him. Therefore, somewhere in our prayers we must be sure we confess our sins to our Heavenly Father.