



Kingdom Culture

sermon on the mount series

Aug 20th & 27th

PERSONAL REFLECTION OR GROUP DISCUSSION

MATTHEW 6:9-15

This will be a two-part series in church, and it is recommended you do half these questions in week following the 20th and the rest following 27th.

1. In the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), Jesus begins by addressing God as "Our Father." How does this relational aspect influence our approach to prayer, and can you think of any Old Testament references that highlight the concept of God as a Father to His people?

2. Jesus teaches us to pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." How can we practically apply this request in our daily lives and decisions, and what Old Testament passages emphasize the importance of seeking and aligning with God's will? What things in our world do you ache to see God's will being done on earth?

3. "Give us this day our daily bread." What does this line teach us about dependence on God for our basic needs, and how can we practically cultivate a sense of gratitude and reliance on God's provision?

This phrase echoes the provision of manna in the wilderness (Exodus 16). How does understanding this Old Testament event, deepen our appreciation for God's daily provision in our lives? Cf historical note below

4. In verse 12, Jesus instructs us to pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." Jesus emphasizes forgiveness in verses 14-15. How can we practically extend forgiveness to others? Is our forgiveness therefore conditional on our forgiveness of others?

5. The concept of forgiveness in the Lord's Prayer reflects the principles found in Leviticus 25 and the Year of Jubilee. How can we draw parallels between forgiving debts and granting freedom to those in bondage in the Old Testament and the forgiveness Jesus teaches?

6. "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." How can we practically guard ourselves against temptation and actively seek God's guidance and protection in our daily decisions? Cf James 1:13-15, James 4:7.

Can you think of any Old Testament examples of individuals facing and overcoming temptation?

7. Although not found in our text, some church traditions add to verse 13 these words "For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." How might this concluding doxology helpfully shape our understanding of God's sovereignty and majesty, and what Old Testament passages highlight God's eternal attributes?

8. Reflecting on the Lord's Prayer, how can we create a balanced prayer life that includes both personal needs and a focus on God's kingdom and glory?

9. How can the Lord's Prayer serve as a template for praying for our community and world, and which Old Testament references demonstrate intercessory prayers for nations and societies?

10. The Lord's Prayer emphasizes submission to God's will, similar to Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22), and Jesus' submission to "his will" in the Garden of Gethsemane. What do we learn about the wrestle of our will and God's will in these two instances?

11. The plea for deliverance from evil can be seen in the story of Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6). How does Daniel's unwavering faith during a time of testing connect with our request for protection from temptation and evil? What do we learn about God in this passage?

12. Do we tend to ignore or downplay the place of Satan in our faith battle experience these days? If so, why might this be the case?

13. How can the phrase "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" resonate with the prophetic visions of a restored and renewed world in Isaiah (Isaiah 65:17-25)?

14. Discuss how the Lord's Prayer encapsulates the themes of repentance, forgiveness, and restoration found throughout the Old Testament, and how these themes continue to impact our spiritual lives and relationships today.

Cf historical note

The Old Testament reference to manna being collected daily can be found in the book of Exodus, specifically in Exodus 16. This chapter describes the story of the Israelites' journey through the wilderness after their escape from Egypt. As they travelled through the desert, they began to complain about the lack of food. In response to their complaints, God provided a miraculous substance called manna to sustain them.

Exodus 16:14- 15 The MSG

That evening quail flew in and covered the camp and in the morning, there was a layer of dew all over the camp. When the layer of dew had lifted, there on the wilderness ground was a fine flaky something, fine as frost on the ground. The Israelites took one look and said to one another, man-hu (What is it?). They had no idea what it was.

15-16 So Moses told them, "It's the bread God has given you to eat. And these are God's instructions: 'Gather enough for each person, about two quarts per person; gather enough for everyone in your tent.'"

17-18 The People of Israel went to work and started gathering, some more, some less, but when they measured out what they had gathered, those who gathered more had no extra and those who gathered less weren't short—each person had gathered as much as was needed.

19 Moses said to them, "Don't leave any of it until morning."

20 But they didn't listen to Moses. A few of the men kept back some of it until morning. It got wormy and smelled bad. And Moses lost his temper with them.

21-22 They gathered it every morning, each person according to need. Then the sun heated up and it melted. On the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, about four quarts per person. Then the leaders of the company came to Moses and reported.

This passage describes how the Israelites were instructed to gather manna every morning, enough for their daily needs. The manna would not last overnight; any leftovers would spoil. This daily provision of manna became a tangible demonstration of God's faithfulness and care for His people during their time in the wilderness.