

MARCH: THE LORD'S PRAYER (PART 2)

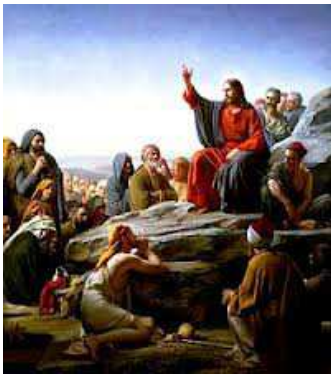
“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

“This is how you are to pray:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one. If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.” – Matthew 6:5-15

Jesus, the second person of the Godhead, gives us instruction on how to address Him and what to ask for. And this is a huge clue as to how we should orient our private prayer, our worship and our lives.

I mentioned in my article last month that *“The Lord’s Prayer”* is also known as *“The Perfect Prayer”*. Why? Because this is the only time that Jesus said ***“This is how you are to pray”*** The prayer he gave is also an outline for how to pray.



Let’s review the intro and first 3 petitions in the prayer.

Our Father in heaven,

- 1. hallowed be your name,***
- 2. your kingdom come, your will be done,***
- 3. on earth as it is in heaven.***

In the Old Testament God introduced Himself to His people and gave Moses Ten Commandments. The first commandment is “I am the LORD your God. You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.” So, in the first Commandment God gives us His name “I Am,” His title “the Lord your God,” and our relationship to Him “You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.” Jesus presumes that you know and observe all that and He summarizes it eloquently by saying ***“Our Father in Heaven.”***

1. Hallowed means holy so what we are really saying is “You are so holy that even the mention of your name is holy and worthy of reverence.” The second commandment states “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.” Long before the coming of Jesus the ancient Jews wouldn’t speak the name of God because it was too holy. In our time people flippantly take God’s name in vain to their own peril. Whenever I hear God’s name placed next to the word “awful” I cringe and offer a firm correction. That’s a particularly bad one and persons who use it should stop.



