

MARCH: THE LORD'S PRAYER (PART 2)

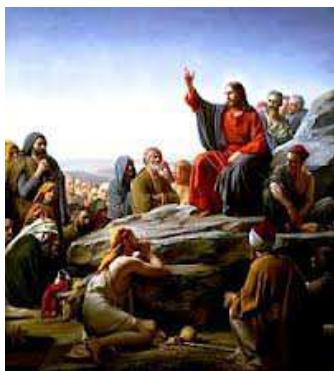
"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father 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.





2. We serve a God of great order and organization. Every person, place and thing He has created has its purpose, and that purpose is to do His will. From the beginning, man chose to be separated from God. But God prefers to be reunited and at the end of time, He will be with those who do His will.

3. In the end, every person, place and thing who chooses life has the hope of eternal joy “**on earth as in heaven**” with no more division.



I like the way that story ends.

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The March business meeting is on Tuesday, March 5th at 7:00pm. The Second Friday Memorial Mass for the deceased Knights of this council is on Friday, March 8th at 5:45pm. The Respect Life Rosary is canceled during Lent in favor of the Stations of the Cross; please go! Don't forget to make a good confession and get cleaned up spiritually. Remember that Fridays in Lent are a time of fasting. We have fish fry's and the crab feed in March.

Pray that God give us the grace to seek Him in prayer. Pray for the men and women who serve in law enforcement and the military. Pray that politicians have a conversion of heart. Pray for strong families. Above all, pray that Holy Mother Church around the world can withstand the buffets of her enemies. Pray for our priests and for our new Holy Father.