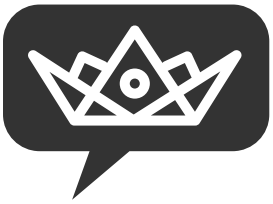
THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM



A SERIES ON MATTHEW 1-7

The Disciples' Prayer

Matthew 6:7–15

Sermon Notes:

Prayer Requests:

1. What insight, principle, or observation from the message did you find most helpful, most challenging, or most troubling? Please explain.

2. Have you ever had the belief, identified by Jesus in vs. 7, that you needed to get God's attention with lots of words? What other struggles have you had with prayer? In what ways are those struggles helped by Jesus' teaching in this passage?

3. Consider again the first three requests of the prayer, and how they can each be answered in three different ways. i.e. God's name is honoured, His kingdom comes, and His will is done when 1) people are born again (missions and evangelism) 2) His people grow in their walk with Him (spiritual growth), and 3) Jesus returns to reign on the earth.

    a. When you pray, which of these three aspects do you tend to focus on?

    b. What are some ways to keep all three aspects in view when you pray?

4. When we pray that God's will will be done on earth, what are we really asking for? How can we know what God's will is (see Romans 12:1–2, Ephesian 5:1–21)?

5. In this prayer, Jesus tells us to ask God to deliver us from evil.

    a. Where else in the Bible can we find promises that God will do this for us?

    b. What should be our first reaction when we are faced with temptation?

6. The prayer in Matthew 6 is balanced between God-centred requests, and us-centred requests.

    a. What kind of balance tends to be reflected in your own prayers?

    b. What can you learn about yourself from this?

    c. What steps do you need to take to bring your prayers back into biblical balance?

7. On Sunday, we saw how the Disciple's Prayer is connected to the rest of Scripture. This reminded us of the concept of "praying the Bible."

    a. What is your experience with praying the Bible?

    b. What are some steps you can take to incorporate this practice into your life?

    c. Take some time in your small group to pray through the Disciples' Prayer, using it as your template, and think of other passages that talk about the same things to pray through.