

Jesus: To Love Him Is to...Pray – May 1, 2022 Matthew 6:5-15

I. Starter Discussion Questions:

- If God already knows what we need, why do we pray?
- How is your prayer life? Do you pray? If not, why? Share your experience with the group.

II. Discussion of Scripture:

Matthew 6:5-15 (ESV)

The Lord's Prayer

⁵ "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷ "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,

¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

¹⁴ For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

- III. Is this prayer meant to be something we repeat?
- IV. Our Father- how special
- V. In Heaven

- VI. <u>Hallowed be Thy Name</u>
- VII. The kingdom come, Thy will be done
- VIII. Give us this day our daily bread
- IX. Forgive us our debts as we forgive
- X. Lead us not into temptation
- XI. For Thine is the Kingdom. . .

XII. This prayer as a pattern

- 1. Begin With Praise & Worship to Our Father (v. 9)
- 2. Pray the Lord's will be done. (v. 10)
- 3. Pray For Your Needs. (v. 11)
- 4. Confess Sin & Ask for Forgiveness. (v. 12)
- 5. Ask For Help Forgiving Others. (v. 12)
- 6. Pray For Safety, Protection & Deliverance (v. 13)

XIII. Discussion Questions to consider:

- 1. Reflecting on this passage, how does understanding God as our "Father" teach us about our relationship with God? Think about the different things Jesus taught about the Father. What functions of an earthly parent reflect the parenthood of God?
- 2. When you pray for God's will to be done in the world and your life, do you really mean it? What does it look like for God's will to be done in your life?
- **3.** What does daily dependence on God look like? How can you learn to trust God to meet your immediate needs spiritually, physically, emotionally, and relationally?
- **4.** How do you treat someone who owes you a debt? What is your natural inclination? Do you keep score with others? How does this line up with how God treated your debt?
- **5.** Who have you pushed away in unforgiveness? What is a step you can take to walk in a forgiveness mindset? How can you practically apply forgiveness to a relationship this week?