

Theme: Jesus instructs us to ask God for the things He has promised to give, that His name would be hallowed. We do not ask for ourselves alone, nor do we ask alone. In God's providence it often pleases Him to answer our prayers for the needs of the saints through the ministry of the saints.

Background: Our heavenly Father, Who delights in watching over His children in their need.

Introduction: Hudson Taylor, 1854; *John Calvin Institutes of the Christian Religion*, p. 851

I. Praying God's Promises

- How do I know my prayers will be answered? We ask for what He has promised.

- A. Knowing His promises (John 15:7)
- B. Praying in light of the promises
- C. Using the pattern Christ taught
- D. Praying in unity
- E. Fulfilling the opening petitions

II. His Provision (Matthew 6:11)

A. The gift

1. God, the giver of all good gifts (James 1:17)
 - We aren't begging
 - He provides what we need (not what we think we need)
2. It is right to ask (2 Corinthians 9:10)
 - We don't just pray for "spiritual" things
 - So we are not burdened by physical things

B. Today

- Without worry for tomorrow
- Storing up for the future (1 Timothy 5:8)

C. Our daily bread

1. More than food
2. When "needs" are few (Proverbs 30:8)
 - Meet our needs so that we can honor Him, serve His kingdom
 - Must learn what is right for us to keep asking for

D. More than "me"

- Concern for the whole body (and those beyond) (Luke 10:25-37; 1 Corinthians 16; 2 Corinthians 8&9)

III. His Pardon (Matthew 6:12)

Acts 2:38 "And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

A. The need for forgiveness (Acts 2:38)

1. I need forgiveness
 - a. We are debtors! (Matthew 18:21-35)
 - Owing perfect obedience
 - Unable to pay the debt

- b. Forgiveness for my sin and debt
 - c. Experiencing daily, the grace of God
 - d. Seeking forgiveness from others (Matthew 5:23&24)
 - 2. The need to forgive (Ephesians 4:32)
 - Not so we can be forgiven
 - But because we have been forgiven
- NOTE: Unforgiveness and powerlessness in prayer (1 Corinthians 12:26)
- B. Instruments of forgiveness (1 Peter 4:8; Proverbs 19:11)
 - 1. Confronting others
 - 2. Sharing the gospel (2 Corinthians 5:18)

IV. His Protection (Matthew 6:12)

- A. The promise (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- B. The problem?
 - 1. Temptations
 - a. Our own hearts (from within) (James 1:13-15)
 - b. Satan (from without) (Matthew 4:3; Job 1:12; 1 Peter 5:8)
 - 2. God's testing (James 1:2&3)
 - To strengthen and to expose weakness
 - To strip us of pride and deepen our dependence on Him

V. Learning to Ask

- A. God knows what we need
- B. Loves to answer/give
- C. He responds when we ask!
- D. Using us to answer