

INTRODUCTION

In teaching us to pray, our Lord Jesus Christ has taught us a preface with which to address our prayers: “Our Father, which art in heaven.”

Our Master taught us those words for addressing God not because God needs such an address from us, but because we need it. God doesn't need anything from His creatures, since He has created all things. Nothing we say in a preface to our prayers does anything for Him. But we need things. Addressing God as we begin to pray does things for us. Primarily it teaches us and reminds us about God, and our relationship with Him, so that we pray to God with understanding, and in faith.

Our Lord Jesus has taught us a preface, “Our Father which art in heaven...” which words teach us how to address our prayers.

We may address our prayers with these exact words, obviously

We may address our prayers in others words than these, but we still learn from these words how we are to address our prayers, in what manner

TEXT

Matthew 6:9a After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven...

Luke 11:2a And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven...

BODY

- I. The Words of This Preface Teach and Remind Us What Things About God and About Ourselves Are Particularly To Be Kept In Mind As We Pray (these things found in Larger Catechism)
 - A. “Our” teaches and reminds us
 1. that we pray with others
 2. that we pray for others
 - B. “Father” teaches and reminds us
 1. of God’s immanence and condescension - God is near us, accessible to us, as a Father; He is down here with us; He turns His face to look on us; His ears are open to us
 2. of God’s goodness - He gives us good gifts, as an earthly father gives good gifts to his children
 - a) He knows what is best for us
 - b) He is willing to give us what is best for us
 - C. “in heaven” teaches and reminds us
 1. of God’s transcendence - God is above us, exalted on high in majesty in heaven
 2. of God’s power - He has the power to give whatever gifts He knows are good for us
 - D. “Our Father which art in heaven” teaches and reminds us of our interest in God’s perfections
 1. illus. Richard Kenneth Young was very good at repairing mechanical things; he fixed cars, lawn mowers, appliances, seemingly anything mechanical; that is of very little importance to you; but to my brother, my sisters, and me, it was of great importance, because of our interest in him as our father; he repaired our cars, our mowers, our appliances
 2. He not only is an immanent Father, bending low to hear prayers; He is our Father; He is this for us
 3. Not only is He the transcendent, all-powerful God on High, but He is this to us, and for us

II. Biblical Examples Teach Us That We May Address Our Prayers In This Manner But In Other Words

A. Other ways to address our prayers with the word “Father”

1. A varied form -
 - a) John 17:11 “Holy Father”
 - b) John 17:25 “righteous Father”
2. A shortened form - “Father” - John 17:1
3. A lengthened form - Mt 11:25 or Luke 10:21
4. An intensified form
 - a) intensely personal Mt 26:30 ...”O My Father...”
 - b) intimately filial Mark 14:36 “Abba, Father” Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6

B. Ways to address our prayers in other terms

1. Daniel 9
 - a) v 4 "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments...”
 - b) v. 7, 8, 16 “O Lord...”
 - c) v. 15 O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand
 - d) v. 17 “our God”
 - e) v. 18 “O my God”
2. Acts 4:24-29 - the primitive congregation in Jerusalem; extended preface that
 - a) addresses their prayer to “Lord”
 - b) then expounds what they know about Him
 - (1) He is God
 - (2) He is Creator
 - (3) He is the One who spoke through the prophets
 - (4) He is the One who anointed Jesus to be Christ
 - (5) He is the One whose purpose determined everything that happens
 - c) then addresses Him again as “Lord,” before going on to the prayer

C. God’s name as revealed in the OT scriptures, “Jehovah” or “Yahweh,” when referenced in the Greek NT scriptures, is not transliterated, but is rendered *kurios*, meaning “Lord.”

1. there is no need to use the Hebrew, near as we can figure it, “Jehovah” or “Yahweh” to address God in prayer;
2. we may speak to Him in our own language as Father, God, or Lord

III. Biblical Examples Teach Us That We May Address God Repeatedly in Prayer

- A. We saw in John 17 that our Lord Jesus addressed His prayer to the Father repeatedly
 - 1. Father
 - 2. O Father
 - 3. Holy Father
 - 4. Father
 - 5. O Righteous Father
- B. We saw in Daniel 9 that Daniel addressed His prayer to God repeatedly
 - 1. O Lord about three times
 - 2. O Lord our God
 - 3. our God
 - 4. O my God
- C. This practice is not to be fallen into mindlessly so as to become vain repetition
- D. But this example is set for us, to be used purposely, with understanding, truly addressing our prayers to God

CONCLUSION

Our Lord Jesus has taught us a preface, “Our Father which art in heaven...” which words teach us how to address our prayers.

The words of this preface teach and remind us things about God and about our interest in Him

Biblical examples teach us that we may address our prayers in this manner but in other words, whether using the word “Father” in various ways, or whether using the terms “God” and “Lord”

Biblical examples teach us that we may address God repeatedly in prayer, so long as we do so purposely, with understanding

Thad - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - 2 Kings 19:15

Stephen - Scripture Reading - Daniel 9:3-19

Roel - Congregational Prayer

Lord's Supper - Luke 23:34-46

Benediction - 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Allison - Prelude

Allison - Trinity 164 “Angels From the Realms of Glory” - Andrew lead

Rita - Trinity 205 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” - Alex lead

Rita - Trinity 186 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

9:30 a.m. Bible Study 2022-12-11

Matthew 4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Deuteronomy 6:16 Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted him in Massah.

Matthew 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Deuteronomy 6:13 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

Exodus 3:13-15 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? (14) And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. (15) And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

Exodus 6:2-3 And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD: (3) And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

1689.2.1 The Lord our God...

“Jehovah” and “Yahweh” are not used in our confession.

Matthew 11:25-26 At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. (26) Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

Luke 10:21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

Matthew 26:39-44 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." (40) Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? (41) Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (42) Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." (43) And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. (44) So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

Luke 22:41-42 And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, (42) saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.'" Having said this, He breathed His last.

John 11:41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.

Joh_17:1 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,

Joh_17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Joh_17:11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

Joh_17:21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Joh_17:24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

Joh_17:25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.

Mark 14:36

Romans 8:15

Galatians 4:6

Acts 4:24-29 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, (25) who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'WHY DID THE NATIONS RAGE, AND THE PEOPLE PLOT VAIN THINGS? (26) THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.' (27) "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together (28) to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. (29) Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,

“Lord”

“God”

Creator

the One who spoke through the prophets

You anointed Jesus

You purposed and determined everything that has been done

“Lord”

Luke 18:13-14 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' (14) I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Acts 7:59-60 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." (60) Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Moses

Deuteronomy 9:26 Therefore I prayed to the LORD, and said: 'O Lord GOD...

Hannah

1 Samuel 1:11 Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

Elisha

2 Kings 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Hezekiah

2 Kings 19:15 Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

Jeremiah

Jeremiah 32:17 'Ah, Lord GOD! ..."

Daniel

Daniel 9:4 And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments,

Daniel 9:7 O Lord...

Daniel 9:8 "O Lord..."

Daniel 9:15 And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day...

Daniel 9:16 "O Lord..."

Daniel 9:17 Now therefore, our God...

Daniel 9:18 O my God...

Daniel 9:19 O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

Nehemiah

Nehemiah 1:5 And I said: "I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments,

Nehemiah 1:11 O Lord...

Nehemiah 5:19 Remember me, my God...

The Levites

Nehemiah 9:32 "Now therefore, our God, The great, the mighty, and awesome God, Who keeps covenant and mercy..."

Ezra

Ezra 9:6 And I said: "O my God, I am too ashamed and humiliated to lift up my face to You, my God..."

Ezra 9:10 And now, O our God...

Ezra 9:15 O LORD God of Israel...

