

I. Introduction.

- A. Jesus' disciples make an important request. v. 1
- B. Is this prayer different from the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:9-15?
- C. Jesus assumes that His disciples will pray. 11:2a Acts 9:11 I Th. 5:17
- D. True prayer is hard. Mt. 6:5-8

II. Jesus tells you how to pray. v.1-4

- A. Jesus gives us, His disciples, a wonderful model prayer. 11:1b Mt. 6:9a
- B. Prayer should be God-centered. 11:2 Mt. 6:9-10
  - 1. You freely approach God as Father through Christ. v. 11-13 10:21-22 He. 10:19ff Rom. 8:15 Gal. 4:6 1 Tim. 2:5 John 20:17
  - 2. Pray that God's Name will be hallowed (sanctified). v. 2b Ps. 34:3 104:1 111:9 Isa. 29:33 Ex. 20:7 Dt. 5:11 Ezek. 36:16ff 1 Pe. 3:15 Isa. 5:16 6:1ff Jo. 17:4,6 12:28
  - 3. Pray for the interests of God's Kingdom: *Your Kingdom Come*. v. 2c 2:25,38 9:2,11,27,60,62 10:9,11,18 11:20ff Dan. 2:44ff Rev. 22:20 9:15 Rom. 8:22 1 Jo. 5:19 2 Pe. 3:12-13 1 Co. 16:22 Dan. 2:44f
  - 4. God's kingdom is where His will is done. Mt. 6:10b 26:39,42 12:50 18:14 Ps. 119:136 Eph. 1:11 Mt. 26:39 1 Jo. 5:14 John 6:38
- C. Pray for what you need. v. 3 Mt. 6:11-13
  - 1. Pray for provision: *Give us each day our daily bread*. v. 11 14:15 Ps. 30:8f 84:11-12 Dt. 8:18 Pr. 30:7-9 Mt. 6:25-34 Ex. 16:9ff
  - 2. Pray for pardon: *Forgive us our sins*. v. 4a 7:41-47 17:3-4 18:9ff Ps. 66:18 32:1ff 51:1f Jer. 31:34 1 Jo. 1:5-2:2 Ezek. 36:25ff Isa. 40:2 55:6-7 Eph. 4:31-32 Mt. 18:21ff When you know His forgiveness, you will forgive others. Eph. 4:31-32 Mt. 18:21ff
  - 3. Pray for protection: *Lead us not into temptation*. v. 4b 1 Co. 10:12ff Js. 1:13 Jo. 17:15 Heb. 4:15 Ro. 8:31f 16:20 Gen. 3:15 1 Cor. 15:57
  - 4. Pray for others: "us/our". Eph. 6:18 3:14-21 I Tim. 2:1-4 Col. 1:3 4:2 Js. 5:16

III. Jesus encourages you to pray. v. 5-13

- A. God will hear your persistent prayers. v. 5-8
  - 1. A very awkward situation arises when a late-night guest arrives. v. 5 10:38ff
  - 2. Can you imagine that a friend would refuse to help you? v. 5b-7
  - 3. A friend will give you the bread regardless of his motives. v. 8
  - 4. What comparison is intended between God and the man who finally lends the bread? Ps. 121:4 34:15
  - 5. If a reluctant neighbor will finally help after much imploring, how much more will your loving Father hear your persistent prayers.
- B. Keep on asking, seeking and knocking. v. 9-10
  - 1. Why ask if God has already promised to provide for us? Mt. 6:25ff Js. 4:2b
  - 2. Fervently seek until you find and knock until it is opened. Jer. 29:13 Mt. 6:33
  - 3. God is a Friend Who is willing to answer.
  - 4. He is the Giver of every good gift. Js. 1:17
  - 5. What, in the context, does Jesus expect us to be asking and seeking? 11:2-4 Mt. 6:33
  - 6. Why do we so often fail to persist in prayer?

- C. God is a good Father Who gives His children good things. v. 11-13 Ps. 84:11 34:9f
1. Yet again Jesus argues from the lesser to the greater.
  2. Even sinful human fathers give their children the good things they need.
  3. How much more will God, Who is the perfect Father, give us all we need. 15:20ff Ps. 103:13f Isa. 49:15
- D. Many people misunderstand these promises.
1. God is not your prayer genie. Acts 19:11-17
  2. Jesus does not promise lifelong material wealth and physical health. Js. 1:2ff
  3. The context clarifies Jesus' meaning.
  4. Proper prayer puts God's will ahead of our will. 11:2c 10:40-42 22:42 Mt. 6:10b Rom. 11:33ff 2 Co. 12:7-9 1 Jo. 5:14
  5. Sometimes He tells us "no". 10:40-42 22:42 2 Co. 12:7-9
  6. Sometimes we may ask for a snake or a scorpion.
  7. God knows best what you need. Ps. 119:67,71 Js. 1:2ff
- E. Why are our prayers sometimes answered, "no"?
1. Jesus' promise is only for God's children. Mt. 12:38-39 Pr. 15:29 Luke 13:24-30
  2. Your sin may hinder your prayers. Isa. 59:2 1 Pe. 3:7 Pr. 28:9 1 Jo. 3:22 Ps. 66:18
  3. You may be asking with wrong motives. Js. 4:3 Acts 8:22 Mt. 6:24
  4. What you want may not be according to God's sovereign will. 1 Jo. 5:14-15
  5. He may have a good purpose which you cannot yet understand. 2 Co. 12:7-10
  6. His timing is perfect. 1:13 1 Sam. 1:27
  7. Sometimes we may be perplexed by God's answers.
- F. For what are you praying? v. 13b
1. We should be asking for what matters most. 10:42,27a 11:2-3 Mt. 6:33
  2. We get in trouble when we desire anything more than we seek after God. Js. 4:1-7
  3. What we need most is the Holy Spirit. v. 13b 24:49 Acts 1:5,8 Gal. 5:16ff Eph. 3:21ff John 14-16

#### IV. Concluding applications: Trinitarian prayers.

##### Discussion questions

1. What are the differences between this prayer and that in Matthew 6?  
What is the significance of these differences?
2. Why is it significant that Jesus instructs us to address God as Father?
3. For what are we asking when we pray, "hallowed be Your name"?
4. What is the relationship between God's forgiveness of us and our forgiveness of others?
5. How do you reconcile the prayer that God won't lead us into temptation with the certainty that He will allow trials into our lives? Js. 1:2ff
6. What is the point of the parable of the reluctant friend?
7. For what kinds of things is Jesus assuming you will ask?
8. Why are some prayers answered "no" or "wait"? Does this contradict Jesus' promise?
9. How would you answer someone who says that we can expect God to make us rich and healthy based upon verses 9-10?
10. What is the point of Jesus' example of earthly fathers giving their sons fish and eggs?
11. What does it mean to ask for and seek the Holy Spirit?
12. How has God answered your prayers? Whom should you tell?