

The Gospel of Matthew #52

Sermon on the Mount: chapter 6: LIVING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

HOW TO PRAY: I. WHO WE PRAY TO:

OUR FATHER

Matthew 6:9b

Six observations:

I. Note “_____” Father

Whole prayer is in plural. It is a prayer in context of community

II. Does this mean we should _____ ever address the Father?

No. Jesus and the Spirit are fully God, and we can call on them as Persons unique and dear to us (eg Acts 7:59; I Cor 1:2), with particular ways they minister to us (eg Rom 8:26-7). But the normal pattern is to address the Father thru the Son, aided by the Spirit.

III. _____ can address God this way?

ONLY Christians who belong to Jesus Christ by faith:

John 1:12-3; I Jn 3:1; Gal 3:26 cf. v10-14; 4:4-7

Everyone in this room in one of two categories:

1. His creatures, alienated and under His wrath: Eph 2:3

2. His children by adoption because THE Son was cast away and cursed, and you are trusting Him: John 1:12-3

The Lord's Supper seals to you this relationship: Daddy!

IV. What is the _____ of the word, “_____”?

The Jews referred to God in exalted but distant terms

Jesus teaching His disciples to refer to God as *their* Father was a radical new thing: the New Covenant term for God

Abba: Aramaic term of endearment to father, used by children into adulthood. Somewhat like Daddy/Dad: combines endearment with respect.

V. If that term is not precious to you...

A. _____ what you longed for in your father but never had

B. _____ your earthly father and your heavenly One

God is not *like* a father; He IS *the* Father (Eph 3:14-15)

Earthly fathers are to be like Him, not vice versa

He is the perfect Father none of us have ever had on earth. But DO have because of Jesus, *the* Son.

His Father by right; ours by grace.

We are all "special needs" children, adopted by the free loving choice of our heavenly Father (Eph 1:5)

C. _____ in that contrast!

He adopts us legally because of the objective work of Christ, and He gives His Spirit to create the bond of love (Rom 8:15-16)

The more you know Him, the more secure you are, and the more you want to pray.

VI. This is the _____ for all real prayer: knowing God as Father

Tell me how much you make of God as your Father, and I'll tell you the quality of your prayer life.

Prayer is not primarily about asking God for things, but a **relationship** with our Father.

Seeking His Face more than His Hand.

How precious is God as **Father** to you?

Think of what it cost Him to adopt you as you hold the elements in your hand. And how precious you are to Him.

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one
for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.*