THE PRAYER OF EXAMPLE

Intro: As a basis for our study please turn in your Bibles to Matthew 6:9-13 “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11Give us this day our daily bread. 12And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.” Many call this the Lord’s prayer, but it is actually a prayer of example rather than one our Lord prayed. Let us study it part by part.

I. OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN
   A. This recognizes the Fatherhood of God.
      1. He is Father by way of creation
         a. Gen. 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
         b. Acts 17:24, 29 “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;...Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device.”
      2. He is Father by way of preservation; Mat. 6:25-30 “Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?”
      3. He is Father by way of redemption; John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”
   B. This also recognizes heaven.
      1. John 14:1-3 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”
      2. 2 Cor. 5:1 “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”
   C. Sinners do not have God as their spiritual Father.
      1. John 8:44 “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”
      2. They must be born again into the family of God to have Him as their Father.
         a. John 3:3-5 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? 5Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
         b. Jam. 1:18 “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”
II. Hallowed Be Thy Name

A. Hallowed means to render or pronounce holy; to let God’s name be celebrated, venerated, and esteemed as holy.

B. God’s name must be revered
  1. Ps. 111:9 “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.
  2. Heb. 12:28 “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:"

C. Some fail to reverence God’s name.
  1. Some show outright disrespect of God’s name by taking His name in vain.
    a. Exo. 20:7 “Thou shalt not take the name of the L ORD thy God in vain; for the L ORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”
    b. Eph. 4:29 “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”
  2. Others show disrespect of God’s name by using euphemisms.

III. Thy Kingdom Come

A. The kingdom is the church.
  1. Mat. 16:18-19 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”
  2. John 18:36 “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.
    a. It is not an earthly kingdom.
    b. Luke 17:20-21 “And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: 21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.”
  3. Mark 9:1 “And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.”

B. The kingdom was established on Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ
  1. Acts 2
    a. Isa. 2:2-4 “And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the L ORD’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. 7And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the L ORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the L ORD from Jerusalem. 8And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”
    b. It began in Jerusalem.
    c. It was established in the last days; Acts 2:16-17 “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:”
2. Same terms of admission:
   a. Mat. 16:18-19 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”
   b. Acts 2:38, 47 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost....47Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.
   c. John 3:5 “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

3. Same members
   a. Col. 1:2 “To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
      (1) The saints are those who are in the church.
      (2) 1 Cor. 1:2 “Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:”
   b. Col 1:13 “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”

4. Same memorial
   a. Mat. 26:29 “But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”
   b. 1 Cor. 11:20-34

C. This recognizes the church.
   1. We cannot pray for it to come because it already has come.
   2. We can and should pray for it to spread.

IV. THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
   A. Jesus recognized that God’s Will has priority over any man’s will.
      1. Jesus exemplified this principle in His own life.
         a. John 5:30 “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”
         b. Mat. 26:39 “And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”
      2. Man’s duty
         a. Ecc. 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”
         b. Acts 17:27 “That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:”
   B. This part of the example prayer is revolutionary.
      1. Henry Ward Beecher called it, “The most fearful prayer” in all the world.
      2. God’s Will is obeyed perfectly in heaven; we are told to pray for the same thing on earth.
         a. But what would happen if God should answer it in detail immediately?
         b. What would happen to your business, your home, your time, your money, your thinking, your speech, etc.
V. **GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.**

A. This recognizes God as the provider and giver of material blessings.
   1. Mat. 7:9-11 “Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 10Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”
   2. Jam. 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”
   3. For this we should be thankful; Col. 3:15 “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

B. It recognizes man’s dependence upon God; Phi. 4:19 “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

VI. **AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS**

A. This recognizes:
   1. The reality of sin
   2. The need for forgiveness from God
   3. The need to forgive each other.

B. We need forgiveness from God.
   1. John 8:21 “Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.”
   2. Acts 8:22 “Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.”

C. We need to forgive each other.
   1. Mat. 6:14-15 “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”
   2. Col. 3:13 “Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”

D. If God forgives us as we forgive our debtors, then how many of us stand forgiven in His sight?

VII. **AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION**

A. This recognizes temptation.
   1. Temptation is not an illusion.
   2. Temptation is real.

B. God does not tempt man to sin; Jam. 1:13 “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:"

C. 1 Cor. 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”
   1. We must pray to God and work with Him and want a way of escape.
   2. Do you truthfully pray for a way of escape.

VIII. **BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL**

A. This recognizes Satan, his work and his influence.
   1. 2 Cor. 2:11 “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”
2. Eph. 6:11 “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

B. Jam. 4:7-8 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your hands, ye sinners; and purify *your hearts, ye double minded.*

IX. FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOREVER.

A. The kingdom belongs to God.
   1. *In the New Testament kingdom of God is used 68 times.*
   2. John 3:3, 5 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.... Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
   3. God thus has the right to regulate all things concerning His kingdom.

B. He is the one with all power.
   1. Jer. 32:17 “Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:”
   2. Job 42:2 “I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.”

C. The glory belongs to God.
   1. We are to give glory to God for who He is; 1 Tim. 1:17 “Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, *be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*”
   2. We are to give glory to God for what He has done:
      a. By way of creation; Psa. 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”
      b. By way of salvation;:
         (1) Rev. 19:1 “And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:”
         (2) Jude 25 “To the only wise God our Saviour, *be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*”
         (3) Rev. 1:6 “And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*”
   3. We are to glorify God in all that we do; 1 Cor. 10:31 “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”
   4. Thus the Scriptures emphasize giving glory to Him.
      a. Rom. 16:27 “To God only wise, *be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.*”
      b. Phi. 4:20 “Now unto God and our Father *be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*”
      c. Rev. 7:12 “Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, *be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.*”

D. This is a doxology (giving glory and praise to God) and a recognition of His kingdom, power, and glory and our dependence on Him.

Conclusion: In this model prayer we learn much about for what we are to pray. Let us apply these things in our prayer life and be great men of prayer.