



Week of May 10, 2020: The Lord's Prayer – “Give Us Today Our Daily Bread”

Discussion Questions Set #1

“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. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (Matthew 6:9-13)

In sermon, it was suggested that you'll note an interesting progression to the Lord's Prayer. The prayer begins with significant acknowledgements of God – we turn our attention to and orient our hearts towards Him – and then we move on to ask for three things: for provision, for pardon and for protection.

1. What is the significance of acknowledging who God is before moving on to request things of Him?
2. Do you agree that we are often too quick to express our needs to God in prayer? Why or why not? Why might this be the case?
3. As a H2H group, take 5-10 minutes to practice the “God you are ...” prayer discussed in sermon. After praying, discuss what this experience was like. What was difficult? What advantages did it permit you?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“[God] humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD”. (Deuteronomy 8:3)

“Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread”. (Proverbs 30:8)

1. Sometimes in life, it's very difficult to discern the difference between needs and wants. Christ's use of the term “daily bread” helps us to understand that our requests ought to be needs based. We are to pray for bread and not cake, bread and not the Reuben sandwich. Why is it difficult to discern between needs and wants? Why is it significant that we are directed to pray for our needs and not our wants? What difference might this make in our approach to God?
2. Jesus qualified the word bread with the adjective “daily”. Why is it significant that we are directed to pray for daily bread and not a bakery? What difference might it make to our approach to God in prayer if we pray that we might receive what is needed to endure today and then simply trust Him for tomorrow?
3. Deuteronomy 8:3 helps us to understand that actual trust in God's word – His teaching and promises – is as essential as physical food is to life in this world. The Israelites manna experience taught a dependence upon God for strength and nourishment that could not be accomplished by the efforts of the Israelite people. Try to answer this honestly; is trust in God as important as physical food is to your life in the world right now? Why or why not?

Discussion Questions Set #3

“Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. (John 6:32,33,35)

1. “I am the bread of life” is one of Jesus' famous “I am” statements that point to His divine nature – know that “I am” is akin to Yahweh. What significance is there to the idea that God was traditionally known as Jehovah Jireh – our provider – and in our passage Jesus declares that those who come to Him will never hunger or thirst? What does this say about Christ's desire to meet our daily needs?
2. In sermon, I spoke about my personal experiences saying “I began to spend more time in the first few clauses of the Lord's Prayer, reflecting on who God truly is, and found that as I did this, my list of other needs grew drastically more concise, narrowed and laser-focussed”. Why do you think this might have been the case? Have you ever experienced something similar?
3. Discuss the following statement: “Jesus, you are our daily bread, the one thing we need beyond all others”. What might it mean that in Christ, all of our needs are profoundly, yet simply met?