

PARENTING BY THE BOOK

"LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY"

1. REVIEW

- A. **Luke 11:1-4 (NASB77)** And it came about that while He was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "**Lord, teach us to pray** just as John also taught his disciples." And He said to them, "When you pray, say: '**Father, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.**'"
- B. **THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT IN OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH THAN PRAYER.**
- C. **REASONS WE DON'T PRIORTIZE PRAYER:**
1. **WE ARE TOO BUSY.**
 2. **DISTRACTIONS.**
 3. **CYNICISM.**
 4. **WE DON'T FEEL LIKE WE ARE GOOD AT IT.**
- D. **WHAT IF YOU COULD TALK WITH _____ ANYTIME?**

2. "**GIVE US EACH DAY OUR DAILY BREAD**"

- A. **DISCUSS: THE IMPORTANCE OF BREAD AND BREAD MAKING IN JESUS' TIME ON EARTH.**
- B. **"GIVE" IS IN THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE.**
1. **FATHER, WILL YOU KEEP GIVING WHAT I NEED FOR TODAY?**
 - a. **NOT BREAD FOR TOMORROW.**
 - b. **NOT BREAD FOR NEXT WEEK.**
 - c. **NOT A BREAD 401 K.**
 - d. **... BUT, GOD WILL YOU MEET MY NEEDS JUST FOR TODAY?**
 2. **IN AMERICA, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR CHRISTIANS TO IDENTIFY WITH DAILY DEPENDENCE ON GOD FOR... ANYTHING!**
 - a. **OUR WORLD IS DESIGNED TO ESSENTIALLY ELIMINATE DEPENDENCE, NOT JUST ON GOD, BUT ON EVERYTHING!!**

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
“LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY”

b. MOST OF US DON'T KNOW WHAT DAILY DEPENDENCY IS LIKE... FOR ANYTHING.

1) UNTIL ...

i. WE, OR A LOVED ONE, HAS A TERMINAL ILLNESS.

ii. WE ARE FACING A POTENTIAL DIVORCE.

iii. WE LOSE OUR JOB.

iv. IN SHORT... ANY SITUATION WHERE WE CAN NO LONGER CONTROL OUR CIRCUMSTANCES.

1. AND... NOW WE NEED GOD'S HELP.

c. MANY OF US DO NOT KNOW WHAT DAILY DEPENDENCE IS LIKE... THAT IS WHY PRAYER IS A LAST RESORT FOR MANY CHRISTIANS LIVING IN AMERICA.

3. ANOTHER REASON IT IS HARD FOR US TO LITERALLY PRAY “GIVE US EACH DAY OUR DAILY BREAD” IS THAT MOST OF OUR PANTRIES, REFRIDGERATORS, AND FREEZERS ARE STOCKED WITH MORE FOOD THAN WE CAN EAT IN WEEKS.

C. FACT: SELF-SUFFICIENCY WILL KILL OUR PRAYER LIFE.

D. SOOOO... ONE OF THE RESONS WE NEED TO PRAY, “GIVE US EACH DAY OUR DAILY BREAD” IS TO REMIND US THAT WE ARE, IN FACT, DEPENDANT ON OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.... D A I L Y!!!

3. ANOTHER REASON JESUS TELLS US TO PRAY “GIVE US EACH DAY OUR DAILY BREAD” IS TO REMIND US NOT TO WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW.

A. Matthew 6:31-34 (NASB77) "Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?' 'For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 'But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. "Therefore **do not**

PARENTING BY THE BOOK “LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY”

be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- B. **Matthew 6:25-34 (NASB77)** " For this reason I say to you, **do not be anxious** for your life, *as to* what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing? " Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? "And which of you by being anxious can add a *single* cubit to his life's span? "And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these. "But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *do so for* you, O men of little faith? "Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?' "For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. "**Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself.** *Each* day has enough trouble of its own.

C. “OVERHEARD IN AN ORCHARD”

4. “‘AND **FORGIVE US OUR SINS**, FOR **WE ALSO FORGIVE EVERYONE WHO IS INDEBTED TO US.**”

A. **QUESTION: WHY DO CHRISTIANS NEED TO ASK GOD TO FORGIVE US OF OUR SINS?**

1. **WEREN'T OUR SINS FORGIVEN AT SALVATION?**

- a. **WHAT ABOUT JUSTIFICATION?**

2. **DISCUSS**

B. “**SINS – DEBTS**”

1. **BASICALLY SIN AND DEBT ARE THE SAME THING.**

- a. **WHEN WE SIN, WE INCUR A DEBT.**

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
“LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY”

C. SOME TEACHERS SAY BECAUSE LUKE DID NOT INCLUDE...

D. Matthew 6:15 (NASB) "But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."

1. ... THAT MATTHEW 6:15 IS NOT VALID.

a. I ACCEPT MATTHEW 6:15 ON IT'S FACE VALUE.

E. AT THE VERY LEAST LUKE IS SAYING HERE IS THAT I RELEASE MY RIGHT TO GET EVEN... TO COLLECT THE "DEBT".

1. "FORGIVENESS" OF OTHERS DOES NOT ALWAYS MEAN...

a. THAT TRUST IS RESTORED.

b. OR, THAT YOU HAVE TO BE IN RELATIONSHIP.

F. TWO POINTS REGARDING "FORGIVENESS":

1. FIRST, "FORGIVENESS" (US FORGIVING OTHERS... AS WELL AS OTHERS FORGIVING US) DOES NOT ALWAYS TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY = AN EVENT...

a. SOMETIMES, "FORGIVENESS" IS A PROCESS!

b. WHY... BECAUSE OF THE TIME IT TAKES TO GRIEVE.

1) GRIEVING THAT IS CAUSED BY THE EXCESSIVE PAIN ASSOCIATED WITH THE "SIN".

2. SECOND, "FORGIVENESS" IS A GIFT.

a. WHEN WE HAVE SINED AGAINST OTHERS WE SHOULD ALWAYS ASK THEM TO PLEASE FORGIVE US...

b. "WILL YOU PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR _____ (NAME THE OFFENSE)"

1) ... AND, GIVE THEM THE TIME NECESSARY TO WORK THROUGH THE GRIEVING PROCESS.

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
“LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY”

c. NOTE: WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO DEMAND THAT THOSE WE HAVE WRONGED FORGIVE US BEFORE WE DO THE WORK OF CONTRITION.

1) REMEMBER... “FORGIVENESS” IS A GIFT!

d. THERE IS NO CONTRITION IN “I’M SORRY!”

5. “AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION”

A. THE WORD “LEAD” GIVES US THE WRONG IMPRESSION BECAUSE JAMES SAYS THAT GOD DOES NOT CAUSE US TO BE TEMPTED.

B. James 1:13-14 (NASB) Let no one say when he is tempted, " I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

C. A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THIS PASSAGE IS, “GOD, PLEASE PROTECT ME FROM EVIL”.

1. ... BY KEEPING MY FAITH FROM FAILING.

2. Luke 22:31-32 (NAS7) "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, **that your faith may not fail**; and you, when once you have turned again, **strengthen your brothers.**"

D. WHEN WE PRAY, “GOD, LEAD ME NOT INTO TEMPTATION”, WE ARE SAYING, “GOD WILL YOU PLEASE PROTECT ME THAT MY FAITH WILL NOT FAIL WHEN I AM TEMPTED BY THE EVIL WORLD I LIVE IN, BY MY OWN FLESH, AND BY SATAN” (THE WORLD, OUR FLESH, AND SATAN).