

Sermon Study Guide

Pastor: Pastor Henry Schorr

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THE MAIN THING: **Part 1 (Sept 5/6 '15)

Give US this day OUR DAILY BREAD. To pray this is to pray for others, enlisting us to be a conduit of God's grace and provision to others, to trust Him daily and to live today fully in the moment relying on the blessings and sovereignty of God.

PURSUE RELATIONSHIP: *Opportunities to connect and pray as a group*

1. When did you first learn to recite the Lord's Prayer? What did you understand about it? What confused you about the prayer?
2. When did the prayer become meaningful for you?

PURSUE GOD: *Time that is devoted to the Word of God*

1. The Lord's Prayer is divided into two segments. Who is the focus of the first part? (Matt 6: 9, 10) Read these verses in four translations. What stands out for you from these readings? Why?
2. Why is it important that Jesus uses the words 'us/our'? Who is 'us'? (Matt 6:11)
3. How does the story of the Israelites and manna (Exodus 16:14-21) relate to Jesus's word 'daily'?
4. What are some broader meanings of 'bread'? How does I John 2:15, 16 bring balance to these meanings?
5. Why does Jesus focus on 'today'? How does Matt 6:25 - 34 expand on His emphasis?

PURSUE MISSION: *Seek to be the community of God's people in your community as you live out your calling*

1. Do you recognize any coping systems you use in place of prayer? Ask your group to pray with you about giving these over to God.
2. How can you be the answer for someone's prayer for 'daily bread'? (I Cor 4:2)
3. Memorize/meditate on the Lord's Prayer this week using your favourite translation.

** Sermon available at:
<http://www.cschurch.ca/sermons/christianity-101/learning-how-to-pray/>
(no Sermon Study Guide)

THE WORD (NIV)

Matthew 6:9-13

⁹"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Matthew 6:25-24

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^[a]? ²⁸"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

1 Corinthians 4:2

²Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

1 John 2:15, 16

¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father^[a] is not in them. ¹⁶For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

Sermon Study Summary

There is much confusion around the Lord's Prayer – what it is and what it means. Let us consider it piece by piece.

OUR FATHER: Jesus uses the Aramaic word Abba which means 'daddy'. God desires us to approach Him the way a child would approach a safe earthly father who makes the child feel loved and special. God delights for us – His children - to approach Him in this way.

IN HEAVEN: The Greek used here refers to the air we breathe. Thus when we talk to our heavenly Father, He is as close to us as the air we breathe. Because He is so close we can speak to Him at anytime about anything. There is no concern of ours so small that He does not care about.

HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME: This acknowledges that God is God and we are not. He is holy, just and righteous – all that we long to be. When we pray to Him we are praying to the all powerful, omnipresent God of the universe who is worthy of our full attention, respect and adoration, and in whom nothing is impossible.

YOUR KINGDOM COME: He is our King who wants not only to rule in our lives but also in our world. All that is wrong in the world today is not part of God's original intention. The reason there is no peace in the world is that there is no real peace in peoples' hearts (Ps 62:1). One day God's Kingdom will be established on earth and all will acknowledge that Jesus is Lord. Still, He wants His peace to come to our hearts, lives and world now, and so we are called here to pray that His kingdom would come and His will be done on earth. As more people surrender their lives to Jesus and pray this, the more we will see His will being done on earth as it is in heaven.

This first section of the prayer focuses upon the Lord and His character, kingdom and kingdom plans, and should be a priority in our prayers. The latter three parts of the prayer focus on us – giving us our daily bread, forgiving us our debts and leading us not into temptation. Let us look at the first of these: **GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD.** By **BREAD** Jesus is referring to the basic necessities of life. These may include water, food, clothes, shelter, health and meaningful relationships.

US: Jesus did not say to pray 'Give me' this day but 'us.' Often we will pray for our needs and wants that encompass ourselves and our family. Jesus instructs us to pray not only for our needs but for the needs of others as well. How is it that many in the world do not see these needs met, given verses such as Phil 4:19? One reason is slothfulness, or laziness. 2 Thess 3:6-10 describes this situation of those 'unwilling to work', and that those persons should not be given handouts even by family, friends or the church. Note that this is for those unwilling to work, not those unable to work. Another reason is selfishness and injustice. We have a needy world because we live in a greedy world. It isn't that God has not provided the necessities for everyone. It is that too few people are sharing.

In asking our heavenly Father to give us our daily bread we acknowledge that all we have is a gift from Him, be it the creation about us, the necessities of life, time, friendship and family, our talents and spiritual gifts, and a mind and body that cannot be duplicated. God asks that we manage well what He has given to us, and this includes meeting the needs of others through our generosity and kindness as a conduit of His love. God gives to us but desires to give through us as well to others. He may give to one person something you need, and vice versa in order that we may share. That is Kingdom economy in action (1 Cor 4:2). When we stockpile and stop trusting that God will provide, the world will become needy. When we share of our time, talents, money, lives and fellowship we are actually answering the prayers of another who is praying 'give us today our daily bread'.

DAILY: Jesus is not saying 'give us today our bread for a whole year', but enough for the day. In Exodus 16 God provides the Israelites with manna which they were to collect enough for that day. This does not infer we do not make plans or provisions for the future, but that we are not to stockpile so much that we stop relying on Him for our basic needs. Were we to steward our food better, many could free up hundreds of dollars a year that could feed those in the world who do not have enough food. 1 John 2:15-16 speaks of the lust of the flesh. Food is one of the greatest sources of sin in the Bible (Gen 3:6, Esau, Israelites in the wilderness, Matthew 4 and Jesus' temptation). This prayer is helping us to say 'Lord help me to eat to live and not live to eat'. In other words, Jesus is urging us to find our satisfaction in God, and not in the lusts of the flesh.

TODAY: In saying this we are asking God to help us live fully in the moment of 'this day' and be grateful for the blessings in your life today and trust the Lord with the concerns about tomorrow (Matt 6:25-34). Life has uncertainties that can foster anxiety. This prayer is telling us not to let these fears about tomorrow destroy us from living fully today. Worry accomplishes nothing. It is the direct product of our beliefs, reflecting our convictions. We are convinced our problem is bigger than our God. If you can resolve this worry by doing something, then by all means do it. However, if you cannot, don't fret over it. Relax in the Lord. We cannot stop worrying by simply trying not to worry and make the anxious feelings go away. It must be done in the power of God (Phil 4:6-7). Peace comes to those who pray about everything, worship, serve someone, or share and pray with a friend, and knowing that our Lord remains constant in a world that is spinning out of control. Nothing is too difficult for God to handle and He wants for us to recognize His power and ask for His help (2 Tim 1:12; Rom 8:28). Be thankful in all circumstances. God cares about you. Talk to Him. Pray the Lord's Prayer.