

Simply Jesus

The Life and Ministry of God's Son

Inductive: Lesson 6

Introduction

“And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them . . .” (Matthew 5:1–2). We’ve been looking at the collection of important teachings the church has come to know as the *Sermon on the Mount*, wherein the Lord instructed His followers concerning how to behave like a Christian to live within the kingdom of God. In our third and final look at this series of lessons, we move in for a close up on the subject of *prayer* and its importance in the believer’s life.

Christians certainly want to pray and know that they should pray, but too many simply don’t know how to pray to be heard. Often there arises within our hearts a sense of futility that our prayers don’t rise any higher than the ceiling over our heads. We look at the seasoned saints around us who seems to have “big faith”—ones who definitely experience answered prayer—and we wonder what is wrong with me?

In looking at Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 6, we cannot help but learn the obvious: prayer is an awesome divine gift from God! The model within verses 5–15 instructs us how to draw near to God and talk with Him in a way that grabs His attention, invests our heart in the process and guarantees an answer. This process is a vitally important part of the abundant life Jesus came to give—one that makes the realization of the relationship with Him a reality in day to day life!

Did you know

The prayer in Matthew 6 which Jesus taught to His followers covered every aspect of daily life. Woven into the instruction of *how* the believer is to pray is the clear revelation of to *whom* we pray. Jesus said, “When you pray, call Him FATHER.” During Jesus’ most desperate hour in the Garden of Gethsemane, He called out, “Abba Father.” It is an affectionate term of endearment meaning “Daddy.” The wonderful truth for us as His children is what we are told in Romans 8:15: *You did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of Adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba Father.”* Remember each day when you enter your prayer closet to call Him *Father*—that is precisely what He earnestly desires to be!

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

Teaching / Event

Scripture Text

Parallel Passages

Sermon on the Mount:
The Lord's Prayer

Matt. 6:5-15

First Impressions: Group Discussion

Reflect for a moment on the passages you have just read.

Respond by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

Heartbeat: Matthew 6:9-13 NKJV (Memory verse)

(Write it out once in the space below. If you're familiar with another translation, use that one. Practice it each time you open your lesson.)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Matthew 6:5–15

The Model Prayer

5 “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

8 Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

9 In this manner, therefore, pray:
Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.

13 And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever. Amen

14 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, © 1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

Observation: Look!

Pray. Read through the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why are they key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- Extra: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

Matthew 6:5–8 And when you pray . . .

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Matthew 6:9–13 In this manner pray:

Matthew 6:14–15 The importance of forgiveness

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God’s Word means. Interpretation **always** seeks to answer the questions, “What was God saying to the original audience?” and then, “How does that same truth relate to life today?” Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. **Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.**

Application: How does it apply to me? Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc? What change is required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

Matthew 6:5–8

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Matthew 6:9–13

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Matthew 6:14–15

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Behold & Be Transformed

What did you see as you beheld God's Son?

How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

Pause . . . What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

Ponder . . . How will you put it into practice?

Pray . . . Write out your prayer and be specific.
