
June 2023,

*This, then, is how you should pray:
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 also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

Matthew 6:9-13

Remember the discussion in my last letter; Jesus sat down waiting for those who would gather for his instruction. We talked about our invitation to allow Jesus to be teacher and us students. It is both a humble and expectant position. Here we have our teacher, instructing us in, perhaps, the most important way we are to interact with our God; how to pray.

Jesus' teaching on prayer begins before our text quoted above. In the section leading up to our text, Jesus contrasts wrong motivations and harmful ways to conceptualize prayer. What I think would be helpful to summarize for our purpose is the motivation of our prayer. Our deepest longing in prayer needs to not be confused by others seeing us pray. It is not wrong to pray with others, but it is essential that we are praying to an audience of one. Prayer is purely between you and your loving Father: protect the heart of it.

The first thing I want to point out is that Jesus gave us a prayer to pray. It wasn't simply a model, it itself is something to be said. As we recite this prayer again and again it will begin to shape how we think about God and this world. Not only are we being reshaped to know God as a personal loving Father, we too are being reshaped in how we view this world and what we are to long for.

Now looking at our quoted scripture above Jesus begins with - you call him "Father." This by itself is enough to sit with for quite some time. The God who created all things and rules them by the word of his mouth, wants to be known to us as personally as a loving Father.

Not only that, notice it says "our." Those who are following Jesus are to see those doing the same as family, having the same Father. We are then invited to long for all of our Father's love, power, and desires to be held in the highest of honor among all his creation. That longing posture turns us to the next line. If God's name were to be honored, his kingdom realized among us, how would our world differ? If God's ways of justice, forgiveness, peace, and love for God and

neighbor were fully known - What sins against each other would we be turning from, what acts of kindness and mercy would we be pursuing, what appreciation and care would we have for all his provision in creation. These are the longings Jesus wants to instill in us every time we pray.

In multiple ways, we are invited to remember our right posture before God in this prayer. We are subjects, he is the King. We are the recipient, he is the giver. We are the offender, he is the pardoner. We are needy, he is the rescuer. All of these things speak to me of the way life ought to have been in the garden with Adam and Eve. We know our rightful place and we know God's rightful place. When those two things are right everything else falls into a peaceful state.

As I write the words, "We are the recipient, he is the giver." I cannot help but think of the people we are privileged to serve. In our pantry, we have a section of the above prayer hanging up by our produce tables. It reads, "Our Father in heaven ... give us this day our daily bread." It is my prayer that the right people, at the right moment, look up at that scripture and give thanks to their Father who is doing just that for them.

Current realities

We have had over 100 new shoppers so far this year. Which is a 270% increase in new shoppers from last year. The need is great right now and we are thankful to be able to help. We are so grateful to the USPS food drive that brought in nearly 9,000 lbs of food which we are using to keep our grocery counters stocked. Please pray with us for sustained produce supply.

Current supply needs

Inside our glass double doors, there is a shelf to the left with labeled bins for supplies.

Egg cartons - If you can, please drop off any clean 12-count egg cartons.

Shopping bags - We would happily take any clean shopping bags for our shoppers to use.

Current biggest volunteer needs

We are looking for community members who have previous non-profit governance experience or a legal background and believe in our mission to join our board. If that fits you and you are interested please email me (see footer).

Wednesdays: Pantry Help (restocking food) 11:15am - 1:30pm

Fridays: Warehouse help 10am -12pm (sorting food)

Saturdays: Big need for check in Help *Bilingual* 10:30am - 1pm

Pantry Help (restocking food) 10am - 12pm

Pantry Help (restocking food) 12pm - 1:30pm

On call clothing help: Our clothing partner Micah's house is looking for a couple of people that could be on call to help people in need of clothing.

If you are interested in helping us out please go to our website - jjmwm.org/volunteer

With Gratitude,



Geoff McGannon - Executive Director

Year to date financial update:

Budgeted income: \$73,400 **Contribution income:** \$66,500 **Current deficit/surplus:** -\$6,900