

## Sermon on Lord's Prayer:

This morning I am holding a glass of water.  
How heavy do you think this glass of water is? Anyone?  
The Absolute Weight of this water doesn't matter.  
What matters is how long I hold it.

If I hold it for a minute it's not a problem  
If I hold it for an hour, I will have an ache in my arm  
If I hold it for a day, my arm will feel numb and paralyzed  
In each case, the weight of the glass doesn't change  
But the longer I hold it the heavier it becomes.

The stresses and worries of this life are like this glass of water.  
Think about them for a little while and nothing happens.

Think about them a bit longer and they begin to hurt  
And if you think about them all day long you will feel paralyzed

That's why we have been working through this series on prayer  
It's so important to let go of your stresses  
As early as you can, but your burdens down at the feet of God  
Put the glass down in prayer...

I drive my son Jonathan around a lot still and he is 17. He  
vacillates between listening to really loud RAP music that I  
don't understand, and cant stand, to classic hymns  
It's the weirdest vacillation - but I'm just grateful those hymns  
are in that mix

The other day after my eardrums had been battered and bruised by some really loud stuff  
He went right to “What A Friend We Have In Jesus”  
And then he started to pontificate theologically...

YOU KNOW MOM...oh what needless pain we bear  
The pain is needless...isn't it?  
We are so stupid..we don't need to feel the pain  
We just need to bring it to God in prayer  
If we pray about stuff and trust him...our pain can go away  
So its needless...  
Then he turned on that really loud stuff again  
BA BOOM BA BOOM BA BOOM  
Welcome to my life

Today we are going to be talking about  
The LORDS PRAYER  
This is a BOLD PRAYER...and it is mostly about asking God to help us out in the stress and stuff of life,

I just want to say...when you pray this prayer **watch out...**  
Cause if you pray it from the heart, you are praying for some pretty big things

Did you ever notice???

The first part of the Lord's Prayer are all “THY” statements

The second part of the Lord's Prayer are all “Us” statements,  
which means that

**This prayer is all about God first, and how we fit into his plans  
Not about us first and how God fits into our plans**

That's very clear right from the outset. And most of it is all about what God does for us...not about what we do for God.

That ought to relieve some stress right there...

The only thing we must do according to this prayer is to forgive...

## **1.OUR FATHER: WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME**

Right here we declare a bold, audacious reality  
That our Father...our ABBA...which this word FATHER means  
Is quite familiar with us. "Daddy" is the true translation of the  
word ABBA

A very young child's word who spoke Aramaic...easy  
consonants to pronounce in the front of the mouth, with wide  
open vowels, which means Daddy

This Daddy

Is the Creator of the Universe...because this Daddy is in  
Heaven

Right here Jesus juxtaposes the bigness of God who is in  
heaven

With the personal, close ABBA relationship that we are meant  
to have with God

That's pretty audacious don't you think?

To pray to the Creator of the universe and call that God  
"Daddy"

That's exactly what Jesus is doing here

If the Creator of the Universe is your Daddy...and I am sorry to use the word "Daddy" if that offends you...doesn't sound right to you...but that's what it is in the Greek...that's the meaning  
Then nothing is impossible when you are God's child

**Let the stress go! Put the glass down.** You are a child of the Creator God

The One who created the universe by his power...is at your side, caring for you, listening to you, as a parent for a child...when you bring your requests to him

Hallowed be thy name, actually for the Jews meant **"Holy is your nature"**

Today names are a label...something we call each other...**back in the ancient world names were meant to reflect who the person was...**

Sort of like if you call someone "Grumpy" probably you aren't expecting them to be a barrel of laughs

We now go to a dentist called **Dr. Spitz**....I kid you not...

That's more the way names were used in the ancient world to describe...

Who someone was or what someone did

So, the reason this is a lead in to the rest of the prayer is that given who God is, a holy God whose nature is faithful to his people, and given what God does...he does saving acts for human beings....he will indeed follow through on the things that are in this prayer....so **HOLY IS YOUR NAME IS AN ON RAMP to prayer in faith given who God is...**

**Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done, On Earth As It Is In Heaven**

This is audacious, because it is saying

**“Lord, let what’s up there, in heaven, where you are God, come down here.”**

**Bring heaven...to earth!**

Most

people think of eternity, or heaven, as something that will start at some point in the future.

They think about it as

something that will happen someplace else rather than here.

But heaven has already begun to show itself, when what’s up there comes down here...

When Jesus enters somebody’s heart...what’s up there, comes down here

When someone does justice, loves mercy, walks humbly with God...what’s up there comes down here...

**Eternity is in session right now...it begins now for everyone who believes**

**So this part of the prayer says...let's get as much heaven on earth as we possibly can...let's get as much of who we know God to be into peoples lives, communicated and acted out on this sorry little planet for as long as we are here.**

Let's give our lives to that end...

And when that happens...when what's up there comes down here...God's will is done

**SO AGAIN...I can put the glass down if I am worrying about whether I am praying according to Gods will. If I am praying this prayer that heaven comes to earth...I am in sync with Gods will, but it also means I am ready to participate in it.**

So don't pray this unless you are ready to get involved in kingdom work (todds class)

At this point now there is a break in the prayer and we move into the **US statements...**

This is not a me and Jesus prayer for our individualistic culture...No...

This is an "us" prayer...a community prayer that starts with **"Our Father" (not my Father)**... now its all about us...not just me...we are all in this together...as we pray we pray for each other...not just ourselves (generosity of Christ - wanting his father to be our father too)

Jews believed community prayer was more sacred than individual prayer because one prayer corrected the other...this means this is a prayer we pray together...

### **5. GIVE US *THIS DAY* OUR *DAILY* BREAD**

Here we are very bold... ..bc we are expecting God to be available to us, to provide for us simple basic stuff, not once in awhile...but daily!...

Does God have time to do this? Evidently so...

Here again we can put the glass down, because isn't the basic stuff of life what so often creates our stress? Job, kids, expectations, finances etc.

What word is sort of repeated twice? Day and daily... Gives you the impression that God wants us to trust him one day at a time, with this basic stuff of life, doesn't it?

Give us this day...trust God for right now...for this day cause its all we've really got...we don't know what tomorrow holds...

And guess what?...if tomorrow comes...God will be there again for you...that's the kind of God we have...

In Jesus' day people were generally hired a day at a time; they didn't have the security of an annual salary

When the Israelites received Manna in the Wilderness, from heaven they received it daily...each morning it was new

God told them they couldn't keep any of it, hoard it, save it, or it would go bad

Its also a request that our basic needs be provided for. Bread is a basic staple of life. Its mundane...its common...its ordinary.

**That God would care about the ordinary is sometimes hard for us to believe**

It doesn't say give us this day our steak filet...

Or it doesn't say, give us this day our crème brulet...

Bread is right where we are...in the ordinary. And bread is enough to sustain us...; and God's provision is always just enough because then we are postured to have to trust him again...for the next thing

## **6.Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors**

Is this a conditional statement? If we don't forgive others will God not forgive us?

Jesus seems to be saying this in the Matthew version cause he highlights it right after the Lord's prayer and says,

**"If you don't forgive others their sins, neither will my heavenly Father forgive you."**

This sounds very conditional doesn't it? And yet commentators say this is not what this means because it would



contradict other scriptures that assure us of forgiveness in Jesus name as soon as we ask. Jesus forgiveness is free, unconditional.

However, I think one way we can understand this is that it is hardly likely that we really appreciate or “get” the gospel – get how much we’ve been forgiven already by a holy God, if we refuse to forgive our brothers and our sisters.

And this is the one thing in this prayer that we are called to do...

**It is a call again...to put the glass down**

This time we put it down in terms of putting down our bitterness, resentment, hostility, and pain

This is a process...it doesn't come easily all the time

But as I always say...unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die

Again Jesus is saying...let the stress and pain of unforgiveness go

Do for others what I have done for you

Put the glass of unforgiveness down at the foot of the cross

And I will take care of it

If we aren't living in a way where we are postured to forgive one another, out of gratitude for the enormous amount we have already been forgiven....by Jesus...we are not living the gospel.

We probably have not truly received God's forgiveness for ourselves either.... But scripture is very very clear...

**We must forgive...**that's one of the basic requirements of the Christian faith. There's not a lot of requirements like this, but forgiveness is absolutely an essential one.

Forgiveness is enough to keep us busy our whole lives, right? Remember that as you pray this prayer.

And if you are having trouble forgiving someone ask God to help you out.

*Praying that God will help you forgive someone is always in accordance with his will.*

You can talk to me about this too afterwards. I have heard amazing stories of people forgiving what we might consider unforgivable things done to them, because of the power of the Holy Spirit helping them to do this.

## **7.LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPATION BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL**

What does this mean? Why would God lead us into temptation...

Temptation actually here means trial or testing...*not sin*

The way it is written in Matthew the word "into" temptation...seems to indicate that once we are so to speak "inside" the time of trial, whatever that wilderness would be for us...*we might then succumb to sin.*

So the prayer is then...**help us not to sin when we go into the dry patches...when the hard times overwhelm us**

And **deliver us from evil can also be translated...deliver us from “the evil one”** who causes us to sin in the dry times  
So it’s a prayer for our protection

And this is our bold/audacious...prayer ...because it declares that God is strong enough to deliver us from any evil...  
That God’s purposes will not be thwarted....by the enemy

So Jesus ends with...keep them safe from the evil one who would prevent them from doing the things that this prayer is all about...

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever...Amen**

What about this ending?

If you were raised Catholic you stopped before this; and the gospels don’t have this part in it...its not in the earliest Matthew documents or Lukes gospel ....

I remember a Baptist friend saying to a Catholic priest, “Could you just finish the Lord’s prayer ...just one time could you end it?”

*It is believed that the early church added “for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever” as a doxology;* Jewish prayers always ended with this kind of form focusing everyone’s eyes back upward in praise to God. So that’s why we say it too.

So I hope some of these insights help you as you think about the meaning of the words..so that they can come from your

heart ...a little more, and you can pray this prayer...not just say this prayer.

Cause the Lord's Prayer is Our Prayer...Jesus shares us with us..and it is clear from the outset that even shares his close relationship to his Father with us when he says "OUR FATHER"

I like having the Lord's Prayer in worship every Sunday because these are the very words of Jesus, and the early Christians practiced saying this prayer 3 times a day because it was considered so sacred and powerful. (the danger...it becomes rote and we don't pray it...we say it) It's a bold prayer...as we've seen...it rocks heaven and earth... And it helps us to put the glass of stress and strain, unforgiveness and fear, down at the feet of One who cares more for us than we can ever imagine...and who can be trusted completely...

So lets pray it boldly again right now, from the heart, in an act of passionate worship, and watch God work....(SLIDE...say together)