

# The Sermon on the Mount (Part 2)

## The New People of God

### Study 10 – The Lord’s Prayer

#### Introduction

The passage that we call the Lord’s Prayer is undoubtedly the best known passage in all of Scripture. And as is so often the case with familiar things it is easy for us to overlook the radical nature of Jesus’ words and the extraordinary privilege that belongs to those who pray this prayer from the heart.

Think for example of the way in which Jesus teaches us to approach God. There is no sense that God is minimised in the prayer for He is clearly God in Heaven, the Sovereign Lord who rules both heaven and earth and who is a great and mighty King. There is thus a genuine sense of humility and worship in the prayer. But, and this is the truly radical thing, the prayer also encourages believers to approach this heavenly Lord as a loving and caring Father, a Father who has a personal relationship with His people. The prayer teaches us to come with confidence to the One who is not just a Father but *our* Father.

Or think about the comprehensive nature of the prayer and what that teaches us about the nature of God’s care and provision for His people. On the one hand we are taught to pray for our ‘daily bread’ i.e. our fundamental material needs. Yet in the same breath we are taught to speak to God about our ‘daily sins’ i.e. our fundamental spiritual needs. The prayer thus reminds us that our Heavenly Father cares about all of life and each part of our lives. Thus we are encouraged to come to God with confidence and to speak to Him about everything and anything.

Or think about the way in which this prayer challenges our priorities while encouraging us still to pray about all of life. The prayer begins by acknowledging God, His Sovereign rule and the honour of His great Name. And its primary request is centred, not upon us and our needs, material or spiritual, but upon God’s glory and honour and the extension of His rule upon the earth and within the lives of people. It is thus a God centred prayer rather than a self centred one. Thus we are encouraged to come to God for who He is rather than simply for what He can do for us.



**Read Matthew 6:9-15**

1. How are we to view the God to whom we pray?
2. What is the significance of God being our Father in heaven? (See how many things you can think of!)
3. What are we praying for when we pray that God's Name should be hallowed?
4. What is the connection between the coming of God's kingdom and God's will being done?
5. What two things are we praying for when we ask that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven?



10. If we are fully forgiven when we come to Christ, why is it important to daily speak to God about sin? (hint – think about Jesus’ description of God as our Father)

11. The word ‘temptation’ in verse 13 is probably better translated ‘testing’. What are we therefore encouraged to pray for in this verse?



1. How has the Lord’s Prayer encouraged or challenged your own prayer life?

2. How would you use this passage to commend Christianity to someone?