

## Sermon Text Discussion Notes 12/30/2018

Matthew 6:9-13 – “The Lord’s Prayer, Part 1” by Taylor Sutton

### Overview

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This is the first of two messages on the Lord’s Prayer intended to equip us to pray better and motivate us to pray more. The Lord’s prayer addresses God, then offers six requests, which fall into two groups of three. This week we consider the address and the first set of three requests.

1. When you pray, tell God who he is.
2. When you pray, ask God to increase true worship in the world.
3. When you pray, ask God to extend his rule in the world.
4. When you pray, ask God to multiply obedience in the world.

Pray the Lord’s Prayer directly, and use its requests as headings for your own.

Prayer is a way to enjoy God. It is also one of the means through which he exercises his sovereign rule.

### Quotations

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“If we pray rightly, and as becomes our wants, we say nothing but what is already contained in the Lord’s Prayer.” Augustine of Hippo (*Letter 130* [to Proba] 12.22)

From God’s goodness in giving us the Lord’s Prayer “we derive the great comfort of knowing, that as we ask almost in his words, we ask nothing that is absurd, or foreign, or unseasonable; nothing, in short, that is not agreeable to him.” John Calvin (*Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 3.20.34)

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) Taylor said that the prayer’s opening words, “Our Father,” are expensive words. What did he mean? How is it possible for us to call God “Father” in the sense meant by the prayer? Why is meditating on this a good place to begin in prayer?
- 2) To tell God who he is seems at first an odd element of prayer. Why is it appropriate and important? What is accomplished by telling God who he is?
- 3) Taylor said that biblical obedience is a glorious thing. In fact, it defines heaven! Does obedience have that kind of connotation for you? Why or why not? What would make “obedience” a negative concept? What would make obedience to God something glorious?
- 4) Taylor summarized the first three requests of the Lord’s Prayer as asking that God’s cause advance in the world. Review Matthew 6:9-10 and discuss how each request defines “God’s cause.” Is this the most urgent need that springs to your mind when you pray? Is this more important than the things for which we usually pray? Do the things for which we usually pray fit as part of “God’s cause”?
- 5) Do you see prayer as a way to enjoy God? If not, how would this insight change your prayer life? Does it imply a need for a change of heart? If so, do any of the requests in the Lord’s Prayer considered thus far ask God to produce that change?