



SERMON

The Heart of Prayer – Pt 2 (Matt 6:11-15)

DATE

Apr 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

1. Before you start diving into discussion, spend your worship time praying the Lord's prayer (Matt 6:9-13) out loud. Pray through it slowly, thinking and meditating on each phrase.

### THE HEART OF PRAYER UNDERSTANDS THAT...

#### 2. GOD LOVES TO MEET OUR NEEDS

- a. Read Matt 6:11 and the Matt Capps quote below:

*To pray for daily bread is a simple recognition that we are physical beings that God has made to be sustained by physical means... Our daily bread is a reminder to us that we are dependent entirely on the grace of God for our continued existence."*

In our culture, we don't typically have to worry about where our food will come from today or tomorrow. Our fridges are typically stocked for days. How does this situation hinder us from being aware that "we are dependent entirely on the grace of God for our continued existence"? How does this affect our awe of God's provision?

- b. **HEART CHECK:** Are you aware of how dependent you are for your daily material needs? Are you aware of God's bountiful provision for your daily needs?

Is your prayer life connected to your material needs? Are you trying to solve "material" problems (e.g. job loss) only with material means (e.g. job hunting) or are you furnishing your material means with spiritual power (e.g. job hunting + dependent prayer)?

#### 3. GOD LOVES TO FORGIVE OUR SIN

- a. This past weekend, Pastor Jason introduced two different types of forgiveness that God gives: Judicial and Parental Forgiveness. In short, they can be expressed in the following way:

**Judicial Forgiveness** says, "You were once a lost sinner, offending a righteous judge and deserving of hell. However, because Christ was your substitute at the cross, you are now, by faith and repentance, a justified child of God."

**Parental Forgiveness** says, "Because of Judicial Forgiveness, you are now a child of God, but you still sin and break fellowship with your loving Father and are deserving of discipline. However, because Christ is your High Priest in heaven, you can, by confession, continually restore intimacy with your Father."

In chart form, this breaks down in the following way:

TWO ASPECTS OF GODS DIVINE FORGIVENESS		
	JUDICIAL FORGIVENESS	PARENTAL FORGIVENESS
WHO NEEDS FORGIVENESS	EVERY LOST SINNER [ROMANS 3:23]	EVERY SAVED CHILD OF GOD [1 JOHN 3:2]
THE ROLE OF GOD IN FORGIVENESS	RIGHTEOUS JUDGE [2 TIMOTHY 4:8]	LOVING FATHER [GALATIANS 4:6]
THE RESULT OF SIN IF NO FORGIVENESS	ETERNAL DEATH IN HELL [ROMANS 6:23]	BROKEN FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR FATHER [1 JOHN 1:6]
THE ROLE OF CHRIST IN FORGIVENESS	MEDIATOR & SUBSTITUTE [1 TIMOTHY 1:15]	ADVOCATE & HIGH PRIEST [HEBREWS 4:14-16]
THE MEANS OF FORGIVENESS	FAITH & REPENTANCE [ACTS 2:38]	CONFESSION [1 JOHN 1:9]
THE CONSEQUENCE AVERTED WHEN FORGIVEN	HELL [JOHN 5:24]	DISCIPLINE [1 CORINTHIANS 11:31, 32]
THE REQUIRED FREQUENCY OF FORGIVENESS	ONCE IN JUSTIFICATION [ROMANS 5:1]	MANY TIMES IN SANTIFICATION [1 JOHN 1:9]

Spend some time reviewing this chart. Do you understand the difference between Judicial and Parental Forgiveness? Spend some time looking up the verses in the chart and teaching one another what the difference is (Col 3:16).

- b. Sometimes, we may wrongly think, "I hate my unforgiveness and bitterness, but it keeps flaring up. Therefore, God won't forgive me judicially. I'm doomed for hell." In light of what we have studied, what is wrong with this line of thinking?

While struggling with forgiveness does not doom us to hell, it breaks our fellowship with God (1 John 1:6). Are you struggling with unforgiveness?

- c. On the other hand, we may wrongly think, "I believe Jesus forgave my sin, but I refuse to forgive my brother or even try. But it's ok. God still loves me as his child. God has forgiven me judicially." Read Matt 18:35. In light of this verse and what we have studied, what is wrong with this line of thinking?

While struggles with unforgiveness do not strip you of the God's family name, holding fast to an unforgiving spirit is inconsistent with the gospel. In fact, it may even indicate that you never got the family name in the first place. Do you merely struggle with forgiveness or are you holding fast to an unforgiving spirit?