



Sermon: The Lord's Prayer

Text: *Matthew 6.7-15*

Preacher: *Dr. Roger Lambert*

Introductory question -

Anyone who pray the Lord's Prayer begins by addressing God as "our Father." Everything in the prayer flows from our initial ability to call God Father. The NT idea of God as Father is well known. However, the concept of God as Father is already present in the OT. When the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt, the Lord sent Moses to confront Pharaoh and demand that he free the Israelites.

1. Read Exodus 4.21-23. How does the Lord tell Moses to identify Israel to Pharaoh?

Still, the OT prophets were not afraid to hold the Lord accountable for his fatherhood of Israel and ask that God act as Father for his people.

1. Read Isaiah 63.15-64.12. What does the writer appeal to God to do because he is Father?

Reflection questions:

1. What natural divisions do you observe in the Lord's Prayer? What is the focus of each part?
2. How do pagan prayers (v.7) differ from the persistent prayers Jesus himself offered (Matthew 26.44)?
3. In what ways might we be guilty of mindless, meaningless prayers?
4. If, as Jesus says in verse 8, God already knows what we need, why should Christians pray?
5. What does the phrase "Our Father in heaven" (v.9) tell us about God?
6. What does it mean to "hallow" God's name (v.9)?
7. God is already King. In what sense are his kingdom and perfect will still in the future (v.10)?
8. What names of God did Dr. Lambert mentioned in his sermon? In light of our self-centered culture, how do we demonstrate appropriate concern and reverence for God's name and not ours?
9. Jesus instructs us to bring all of our needs to the Father. Some early commentators allegorized the word bread (v.11), assuming that Jesus could not be referring to something as mundane as our physical needs. Why is it perfectly appropriate to pray for our actual "daily bread"?
10. How is our heavenly Father's forgiveness related to our forgiving others (vv. 12, 14-15)?
11. If God cannot tempt us and trials are beneficial (James 1.2, 13), then what is the meaning of verse 13?