

Like Father Like Son

Matthew 6:5-15

Theme of Matthew: "Behold your King is coming to you" (Zech.9:9-11; Mt.21:4-5)

Theme of the Sermon on the Mount: Life Styles of the Rich and Famous

REVIEW OF LAST WEEK

- ✓ The word "father" is used of God about 15 times in the OT.
- ✓ By contrast, in the New Testament, "father" is used some 245 times with reference to God.
- ✓ Jesus refers to God as "father" 17 times during the Sermon on the Mount, more times than the term is used of God in the Old Testament!
- ✓ Jesus teaches us how to pray in verse 9, what is the first thing we say, "Our Father..." By this, we should understand that prayer is simply a child speaking to his or her Father in heaven.

I. BRIDGING THE CULTURAL GAP OF THE MEANING OF "FATHER"

- A. The biblical perception of fatherhood; especially the fatherhood of God, is one of honor, respect, obedience, discipline, compassion, care, provision, being slow to anger, and forgiving (Deuteronomy 1:31; 8:5; Psalm 68:5; 103:13; Proverbs 3:12; Jeremiah 31:20; Hosea 11:1,3,4; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Hebrews 12:5-11)
- B. "Father," for many in our society, means almost the opposite of the Bible's use of the term. It is a word that is emotionally painful, a word of contempt and disrespect. 40% of children in this country go to sleep in a home where their biological father does not live.
- C. "I get a lot of mail from young girls who try to get me to marry their moms. That used to be a real chuckle because it's so cute, but then I realized they don't want a romance for mom; they want the father who is in that song..." (Bob Carlisle commenting on his Grammy award winning song, "Butterfly Kisses").

"I now have a 7-year-old boy and a 9-year-old boy, so all I can say is, I apologize. Now I know what you guys were talking about." *Citation:* Matt Groening, creator of "The Simpsons," responding to complaints that Bart Simpson is a bad role model.

II. THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD IMPLIES RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS CHILDREN. THE LORD'S PRAYER IS A PRAYER THAT IMPLIES THAT WE WILL HONOR OUR FATHER, RESPECT HIM, OBEY HIM, AND HALLOW HIS NAME (Deuteronomy 5:16 with 1 Samuel 2:22-30; 3:13; cf. 1 Samuel 25:8; Isaiah 29:23).

- A. The Lord's Prayer is not simply about who God is and what He does, but also how we are called to live as His children. The Lord's Prayer is not only passive, but active.
1. Praying "Your **kingdom** come" means that we are committed to **seeking** "first his **kingdom** and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33).
 2. The Father's **will** is done on **earth** as it is in heaven when His children:
 - live as "the salt of the **earth**" (5:13)
 - live as "the light of the **world**..." (5:14)
 - "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify **your Father who is in heaven**." (5:16)
 3. When we pray, "You will be done" we are saying that we are committed to actively obeying everything that God commands, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven** will enter" (Matthew 7:21).
 4. You are to be perfect, as **your heavenly Father is** perfect (Matthew 5:48 with 6:9).
- B. 1 Peter 1:14-17 is an excellent commentary on the Lord's Prayer.
1. "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts..." (1 Peter 1:14).
 2. "...like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior" (1 Peter 1:15).
 3. "If you address as Father... conduct yourselves in fear (1Peter 1:17).

C. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 also emphasizes that calling God “Father” means that we will live holy lives (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

1. **what partnership** have righteousness and lawlessness (2 Cor.6:14)
2. **what fellowship** has light with darkness (2 Cor.6:14)
3. **what harmony** has Christ with Belial (2 Cor.6:15)
4. **what has a believer in common** with an unbeliever (2 Cor.6:15)
5. **what agreement** has the temple of God with idols (2 Cor.6:16)

III. OUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN: THOSE WHO ARE BORN OF GOD RESEMBLE GOD: LIKE FATHER LIKE SON (cf. 1 Peter 1)

A. Children resemble those who give birth to them (2 Samuel 7:14; cf. 1 Samuel 20:30; Hosea 11:1; John 3:1-16; Philippians 2:14-15 with Deut.32:5,6,18-20).

Matthew 6:9-10 (NASB95)

9 “Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

10 ‘Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Malachi 1:6 (NASB95)

“ ‘A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a **father**, where is My **honor**? And if I am a master, where is My **respect**?’ says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests who despise My **name**. But you say, ‘How have we despised **Your name**?’

“Close to thirty major leaguers these days have fathers who played in the bigs — an amazing statistic. With thirty teams carrying twenty-five players each, that creates a pool of 750 major league players. This means 4 percent of the planet's best baseball players had fathers who played major league baseball. I find this to be astronomically high when you consider that the odds of someone putting on a major league uniform and actually getting into a game situation has been estimated to be .00004 percent, or 1 in 25,000. Yet one in every twenty-five players has a father who played.”

Citation: Dave Dravecky, “Like Father, Like Son”; <http://www.family.org/married/comm/a0016335.cfm>

B. When we pray, “Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your Name” we are committing ourselves to living as obedient children (Ephesians 1:4-5; **5:1**).

C. You are wasting your time praying if you are not committed to obeying God as Your Father (Psalm 66:18-20; cf. 1 Timothy 2:8; 1 John 3).

"You sum up the whole of New Testament teaching in a single phrase, if you speak of it as a revelation of the Fatherhood of the holy Creator. In the same way, you sum up the whole of New Testament religion if you describe it as the knowledge of God as one's holy Father. If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all." Citation: J. I. Packer, Knowing God, p. 182.

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer. Is God your heavenly Father? Have you been born again? If not, God will adopt you if you cry out to Him as Your Father and ask Him to forgive you of your sins in the Name of Jesus.

What kind of connotation does “father” have in our society? What connotation did it have in Jesus’ day?

Is the Lord’s Prayer a “passive” prayer or an “active” prayer? What commitment are we making when we pray to our Father in heaven?

Why is prayer a waste of time if one is not committed to obeying God as their Father?

