

Mosaic Teaching Guide

Teaching Series: *Living the Lord's Prayer*

Teaching One: *Our Father in Heaven*

Exodus 4.21-23a

And the Lord said to Moses, 'When you go back to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders that I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. Then you shall say to Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord: Israel is my firstborn son. I said to you, 'Let my son go that he may worship me.'

Galatians 4.1-11

My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Matthew 6.7-15

'When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

'Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us to the time of trial,

but rescue us from the evil one.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Introduction

The Lord's Prayer is an abridgment of the gospel and a unifying force among Christians. How do you respond to the fact that millions upon millions of Christians pray the Lord's Prayer Sunday after Sunday? Do you pray the Lord's Prayer during the week? If not, why not? (Early Christians were taught to pray the Lord's Prayer three times a day).

The Prayer Jesus taught us to Pray

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we pray our way into the heart and mind of Christ.

Praying and Living

You see the Lord's Prayer presumes that one has the intention of living in the Lord's Mission. . . . This prayer is about seeking divine empowerment so as to live in divine purpose.

Simple Speech and Simple Prayers

Jesus said, when you pray don't pile up a jumbled heap of words so that you think you'll be heard by the power of your verbosity. Magical mantras won't coerce God into getting what we want. Pray with a deep sense that your Father knows what you need before you ask. How might this advice shape the way you pray?

If after these four Sundays of deep reflection upon the Lord's Prayer, we have only a better understanding of what Jesus was talking about and yet no better prayer life we will have wasted our time. Take a moment to pray about praying. Ask God to re-invigorate your prayer life.

The God to which Jesus Prayed

That is Jesus' God, while being immanently accessible is also transcendently powerful.

The Second Exodus

"The very first word of the Lord's Prayer, therefore (in Greek or Aramaic, "Father" would come first), contains within it not just intimacy but revolution. Not just familiarity; hope . . . The prayer is about being delivered from evil; about return from exile; about having enough bread; about God's kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven" (N.T. Wright).

When we pray "our father" Jesus invites us to participate in the New Exodus. This primarily means that our story is one of a people who are moving from bondage to liberation, from tyranny to freedom, from idolatry to worship of the Living God. How might praying the Lord's Prayer through the lens of the Exodus narrative inform your understanding of Jesus' prayer?

Our mission is to live at the intersection of heaven and earth so as to be a healing presence in God's world.

Above is an attempt to write a mission statement for our community that resonates with Jesus' prayers, life and teaching. Give it some thought.