

THE DISCIPLE'S PRAYER

Matt. 6:9-13

Introduction:

This passage is universally called "The Lord's Prayer" but in reality it was NOT Jesus' prayer but rather a prayer he asked his DISCIPLES to pray. It is no doubt the Scripture passage most often quoted by people (unless Psalm 23). But, do we truly understand what all it means? Let's look at it more closely.

1. "After this manner therefore pray" V. 9

- A. "This is HOW" (NIV) suggests, not in these exact words, but in this MANNER...this is the WAY to pray.
- B. (Luke 11:2 says, however, "When you pray, SAY" so using the exact words is not wrong unless it becomes "vain repetition" See Matt. 6:9)

2. "Our Father in heaven" V. 9

- A. Jesus instructs to address our prayer to the FATHER, not to him or the Holy Spirit.
- B. "Father" tells us of the RELATIONSHIP we are to have with our God.

3. "Hallowed be thy name" V. 9

- A. The word "hallowed" means to be "held holy" (TCNT); "revered" (Mof.); "honored" (Phillips)
- B. Our approach to God must be with awe, reverence, honor and great respect.

4. "Thy kingdom come" V. 10

- A. Elsewhere in the NT the "kingdom" is the same as "the church" Matt. 16:18-19.
- B. This phrase indicates that the kingdom (church) had not YET come...that it was still future to the time Jesus was speaking! Both Matt. 16:18 and Mark 9:1 bear this out.
- C. We COULD however, pray that the kingdom would come to more people, a greater area, or to a larger extent, etc.

5. "Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth" V. 10

- A. God's will IS being done in heaven (The book of Revelation tells us of the praise, worship and service being rendered to the Father in heaven).
- B. We are to ask that it be done HERE ALSO. How could we pray this and NOT seek to do God's will in our own personal lives? Matt. 6:33

6. "Give us this day our daily bread" V. 11

- A. By saying "THIS day" it implies we are to ask for our needs to be met on a DAILY basis..., pray every day! (He did not say, "Give us this MONTH our MONTHLY bread")
- B. By "bread" he obviously endorsed asking for our PHYSICAL as well as our spiritual needs to be met.

7. "Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors." V. 12

- A. For "debts" (or "trespasses" KJV), other translations use "wrongs" (NEB); "shortcomings" (Weymouth); "offenses" (Lamsa)
- B. "As" we "have forgiven" our debtors indicates that God's forgiveness of OUR sins is dependant upon our forgiveness of OTHERS' sins against US! See Matt. 6:14-15

8. "Bring us not into temptation" V. 13

- A. The idea seems to be "do not allow us to fall into submitting to temptation."
- B. Or, perhaps, "Do not bring us to the test" (NEB, TEV)...that is, "do not allow us to suffer tempting circumstances"
- C. Such a prayer necessarily requires of us to make RIGHT DECISIONS about our associations, pastimes, what we see, hear, etc.

9. "Deliver us from the evil one" V. 13

- A. For "deliver" other translations say "rescue" (Weymouth); "save us" (NEB); "keep us safe" (TEV)
- B. The idea is "deliver us from the POWER of the devil to INFLUENCE us to sin"
- A. Note: The last part of verse 14 is not found in the most ancient Biblical manuscripts.

Questions

1. Why is this prayer used so frequently among Catholics and Protestant denominations?
2. Should we use it...that is, the EXACT WORDS in our praying?
3. Since Jesus said to his followers, "After this manner, pray" in what way should we make use of this "prayer"?