

How to Pray

Matthew 6:9-15
Halifax: 9 May 2004

Introduction

Today, we continue our series in the Gospel according to Matthew.

- Several weeks ago, we came to place in the Lord's Sermon on the Mount where He takes up the topic of our religious deeds:
 - Giving to the needy,
 - Praying, and
 - Fasting.

This is one of the most humbling topics to be found in the whole Bible!

- When we think of sin, we don't usually think of giving and praying and fasting...
 - These are the things we do when we are good!
 - But the Lord shows us the disgusting reality that sin finds its way into our highest and most noble deeds...
 - Truly Isaiah said it well when he declared:
 - Isa 64:6: But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags!
 - Even our righteous deeds are filthy.

And of the three religious exercises that Jesus deals with,

- the one that shows our perversity the most is surely prayer!
- In prayer, we come into the very throne room of God and bring our petitions before Him!
- Yet, even in this highest and most noble deed,
 - We are often more concerned about what other people think of our praying than we are about what God thinks!
 - Sometimes completely forget that we are talking to God and start mouthing off meaningless words before Him!

If you want to see evidence of human depravity,

- you don't have to go to the crack house or the whore house!
- Just look at yourself when you are on your knees before Almighty God!
 - The same prayers that you may boast about before men should humble you in the dust when consider what they are before your God!

We need help in our praying!

- Our Lord knows this, and He provides us with the help we need.
- He gives us His Counsel and His Spirit to help us in our weakness...
 - And in Matthew 6:9-15, He gives us counsel about how we should pray!
 - In particular, He focuses on what should be included in our prayers.

You can see this in verse 9. He says,

- “In this manner, therefore, pray...”
 - In other words, “like this.”
 - He is not giving us so much a prayer to pray as He is an outline to guide us in prayer.
- You can see what a comprehensive outline it is!
 - It is like the two great commandments, to love God with all our heart and our neighbour as ourselves.
 - Jesus says these two commandments summarise the law and the prophets.
 - Everything can be reduced to these two!
 - And so it is that everything that you should ask of God in prayer can be reduced to this prayer which we call the Lord’s Prayer.
 - True, it does not include our thanksgiving,
 - but it includes everything in the way of our supplications and requests to God.
 - Everything is covered!

How helpful this is!

- It is an awesome thing to come before God...
 - On our own, we don’t know what we should pray for as we ought!
- But here is help for you from the lips of Jesus Christ!
 - Here you are given guidelines about what to pray for when you pray!
 - Come to this teaching with enthusiasm and hunger—
 - that you might learn what to ask when you come before our gracious God.
 - Come and let us examine what our Lord says.

I. First of all, there is what has sometimes been called “recollection.”

A. When you come before God,

- stop, and take a minute to remember where you are!
1. It is easy to rush into prayer without even considering the awesome truth that you are presenting yourselves before God Almighty!
 - When Job saw the glory of God, he confessed that he had spoken too soon!
 - When God said,
 - Job 40:2: “Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let Him answer it!”
 - A humble Job replied,
 - Job 40:4-5: “Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand over my mouth. Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further.”
 - Job realised that he had contended with God and rebuked him!
 - He had not carefully considered who he was speaking to.
 2. Lest you rush in and start saying things you ought not to say,
 - Jesus tells you to begin your prayer with: “Our Father in heaven.”
 - Not that you are bound to these words,
 - but that you are to collect your thoughts and remember where you are!
 - Remember who it is that you are approaching.
- B. By calling God “Our Father in heaven,” there are two things that you are to consider about Him.
1. First, by saying that He is “in heaven,” you remember His majesty and transcendence.
 - a. You are on the earth, but God is in heaven!
 - You are human, He is Divine
 - You are the creature, He is the Creator
 - You are finite, He is infinite
 - You are poor and weak, He is strong and Mighty.
 - b. What reverence should be yours to come before the Holy One who inhabits eternity!
 - Do not come before Him with vain and wandering thoughts!
 - Do not come before Him with perverse or wicked thoughts!
 - Come before Him with reverence and Godly fear, for He is in the heavens.
 - c. What encouragement should be yours to one so great!

- Consider that He Himself has invited you to come and make your requests known!
- Consider that you have access to the One who holds your destiny and that everyone else in His power!
- Consider that you stand before the throne of the God who moves mountains and who shakes the heavens and the earth at His pleasure!
 - You—little ole’ you—are invited to bring your petitions before the face of the true and living God!
 - Surely, He can do whatever you ask!
 - There is nothing too hard for Him!

TRANS> Collect your thoughts and consider His greatness!

- That is one thing that Jesus teaches you to consider...
 - But there is another that is equally important!
2. By addressing Him also as “Father,” Jesus teaches you to consider the intimacy you have with God Almighty!
- a. Not only is He God transcendent in the highest heaven, but He is a God who is near to you and intimate with you!
 - 1) Don’t think like a pagan here!
 - They have to have it one way or the other!
 - For them, a God who is high and mighty is distant and cold and impersonal...
 - and a God who near and concerned about us is not so mighty and majestic.
 - 2) But you are to come before the One whose majesty makes you melt in awe as the One who is concerned for your needs before you ask Him!
 - b. The only way you can know Him like this is through the everlasting covenant!
 - 1) Jesus Christ Himself is the embodiment of that covenant!
 - He is the One who came down from heaven and gave of Himself to reconcile us to God!
 - He came to earth and died on the cross to atone for our sins that we might be connected to this holy, majestic God who inhabits the heavens!
 - It was by Jesus-Christ-promised that all the Old Testament saints had access to God...
 - And it is by Jesus-Christ-revealed that we can confidently approach God as Father.

- 2) He who spared not His only Son, shall He not freely give us all things?
 - How glad Jesus must have been to present God to us as our Father!
 - His whole desire for coming to earth was that He might reconcile us to Him—
 - that was the burden of His work and His reason for enduring the cross!
 - So here, in Matthew 9, He says to us so graciously...
 - In this manner, therefore, pray, “Our Father in heaven.”
 - Its because of His work that you can pray this way!
- c. This is wonderful news!
- 1) God Almighty who was your enemy is your Father through Jesus Christ!
 - Come to Him in the full assurance of His love as one ready and able to help you through the name of Jesus Christ...
 - What a great privilege this is!
 - How things have been turned around for us!
 - The God of Heaven is not just reconciled, He is our Father!
 - 2) He is using His Almighty strength to bless you as His child.
 - This is what I spoke to you about before...
 - He has grace stored up for you that He is ready to pour out on you in answer to your prayers...
 - Consider to whom you come when you pray!
 - Be still and know that He is the God of Heaven!
 - Be still and know that He is your Father!

TRANS> From here, Jesus proceeds to tell you what your desires should be when you come before this great God.

- There you are, standing before Almighty God, making your requests known to Him!
 - What should you ask Him to do?
- Well I should say that if you really believe that He is as majestic and glorious and beautiful and holy as His Word tells us He is,
 - Your greatest desire will be:

II. That the entire human race would bless God!

- That is what the first three petitions that Jesus presents to us are all about!
- When you bless God, you respond to Him according to His most excellent majesty and perfection!
 - You are like the little boy at school who boasts about his dad and all the things he can do!
 - Your great desire as the child of this great God is that every member of the human race would acknowledge Him with the honour He deserves!
 - Let's look at each to the three petitions Jesus gives us...

A. Hallowed be Your name!

1. A person can have a bad name for a good reason or a bad reason...
 - a. You can have a bad name because you are bad—
 - If you are lazy and careless, nobody wants to hire you—you have a bad name for good reason.
 - If you are a thief and a deceiver, nobody trusts you—you have a bad name for good reason.
 - If you are bad, you deserve to have a bad name.
 - b. But you can also have a bad name because you have been misrepresented and sinful people have believed the lies!
 - 1) The Apostle Paul was one of the most sincere, self-giving, holy men that ever lived, but he had a bad name among the Jewish leaders...
 - so bad that they took an oath that they would not eat until they had killed him!
 - He had a bad name, but for no cause.
 - 2) Some of you may have had people tell lies about you or misunderstand you so that you were given a bad name.
 - It is a great injustice when this happens!
2. But I say, the greatest injustice in all the world is that the human race listened to Satan when He slandered God Almighty!
 - a. God in no way whatsoever deserves to have a bad name,
 - but He does because He is grossly misrepresented in this world!
 - Some believe that He is weak and unable to do what He pleases...
 - Some believe that He is evil and not to be trusted...
 - Some doubt His very existence and some even deny Him altogether!

- b. But I say, who is there in this world that delights in His excellent majesty and glory the way he should?
- The scripture says that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.
- 1) But Christian, you have been reconciled!
 - God has revealed His name to you through Jesus Christ.
 - He has opened your eyes to see His holiness, wisdom, power, love, grace, mercy, goodness, truth, justice, and wrath.
 - You have become His worshippers—
 - And now your desire is that other people would see His holiness too!
 - You want His name to be hallowed in all the earth!
 - You desire that no man should speak or even think of God but with the deepest veneration!
 - Your eyes have seen the king of glory and you want all the earth to worship Him!
 - 2) In saying “hallowed be your name”
 - You are not asking that God would become holy,
 - You know very well that He already is holy—
 - The problem is that the inhabitants of the earth need to see it!
 - You asking God that His **name** would be hallowed...
 - That the inhabitants of the earth would know and regard Him as superior and excellent above all things...
 - without defect, superior in every way.
 - 3) You are like Moses when you pray for this!
 - a) Do you remember what Moses prayed after Israel made the golden calf?
 - He cried out to God, saying:
 - “Show me your glory!”
 - b) Moses knew that God’s people did not understand God’s glory because they had made God to be like an ox that eats grass!
 - Moses knew better than that,
 - but he also knew that *he* didn’t see God’s glory as he should either.

- So he prayed,
 - “Show me Your glory!”
 - Moses wanted to see more of God’s glory so He could show it to the people.
 - Like a good parent, he knew the problem was not just with the children... it was also with him.
- c) God responded to Moses by showing Him what He shows us in Jesus Christ!
- Exodus 34:5: Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation." So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.
 - When we see Christ crucified, we see God’s mercy and grace bestowed on us in truth and righteousness.
 - And we see His wrath and vindictive justice poured out on Christ when He was cursed for us.
 - What a holy God He is that His Son must suffer so if our sins are to be pardoned...
 - And what a loving God He is that He should give His Son for this.
 - The glory that Moses saw is revealed in Christ crucified!
3. Nothing is so perverted with this world than the way God’s name is regarded!
- a. Nothing is more to be desired than that God’s name would be hallowed!
 - That all the world would see His glory as it has been revealed in Christ and become His worshippers!
 - That is what is needed in the nations of the world!
 - That is what is needed in our churches!
 - That is what is needed in your family!
 - That is what is needed in your own heart!
 - Hallowed be your name!
 - b. This is the thing that Jesus desired most of all and the reason He went to the cross!
 - His great prayer in John 17 on the night He was betrayed was this:

- 1 ¶ Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. 3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
- Jesus wanted them to see God's glory.
 - To know the Father revealed in Christ is eternal life.
- All the way through it is a prayer that God's name would be hallowed, that they would know Him,
 - That was His supreme desire and it should be ours as well!
 - Every thing is wrong until God's name is hallowed!
 - Hallowed by Your name!

TRANS> And closely related to this is the second petition...

B. Your kingdom come.

1. Jesus Christ is our King, and after He suffered on the cross, God exalted Him to sit at His right hand as Lord and Saviour.
 - a. It was at that time that Jesus took the throne of David,
 - the seat that God had promised to David that would be inhabited by one of his descendants forever!
 - b. The glorious picture of what happened in heaven at that time was given to Daniel in a prophetic vision and is recorded for us in Daniel 7:
 - Daniel 7:13-14 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, *One* like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* Which shall not be destroyed.
- 1) Jesus began to manifest His reign immediately by the outpouring of the Spirit—
 - "When He ascended on high, He gave gifts to men!"
 - The Spirit was poured out and accompanied by miracles.
 - Immediately, the apostles were given the ability to preach concerning all that Christ had taught them, and that without error...
 - And that very day, 3000 Jews believed and were baptised.
 - King Jesus had taken His throne!

- 2) Over the next three and a half years, many more Jews were saved...
 - Then a persecution arose and the disciples were scattered and took the gospel of the kingdom to Samaria...
 - And soon after that, the Gentiles beginning with Cornelius and then spreading all over the world.
 - King Jesus was reigning over the nations!
 - 3) After this, King Jesus brought judgement to Jerusalem for rejecting His dominion and demonstrated again that He is Lord.
 - And ever since that time, the gospel continues to spread to the nations.
2. But it is very clear that everything has not yet been brought under His feet.
- a. God has promised His Son that He will reign until everything is brought under His feet.
 - This promise was made to Jesus in Psalm 110,
 - “Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool.”
 - and it is repeated many times in the New Testament.
 - b. In Hebrews 2:8-9 the obvious is stated:
 - Heb 2:8: “For in that He put all in subjection under Him, He left nothing that is not put under Him. But now we do not yet see all things put under Him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honour.”
- 1) Clearly Jesus is crowned as King, but clearly, everything is not in subjection to Him yet.
 - This is not Heaven!
 - 2) Paul gives us a marker as to when the promised end shall be...
 - In 1 Cor 15:25, he says,
 - 1 Cor 15:25-26: “For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that that will be destroyed is death.”
 - When this last enemy is destroyed,
 - There will no more bodies rotting away in the grave but they will all be raised and clothed with immortality...
 - There will be no more sickness or pain or death for Christ’s people.

- c. What's more, we see that there are many who are still in rebellion against Christ, and that we ourselves are by no means perfected in holiness.
 - We have reason to pray that His kingdom would come.
 - The kingdom is here in the sense that the king is here and is reigning...
 - But it is not yet fully come because all things are not yet brought under His feet.
 - The kingdom of rebellion has not yet been destroyed.
3. And I should say that in praying for God's kingdom to come, you are praying for the church to advance.
- a. Those who submit to Christ as Saviour and Lord (that is, as King), submit to His command to repent and be baptised into the church.
 - They come under the government which He has appointed as king...
 - And that government consists of the ministers and elders He has appointed to rule.
 - b. And these ministers and elders are given the message of the gospel to proclaim in all the world...
 - They are commanded to receive into the kingdom all those who repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - They are to seal these disciples with baptism and the Lord's Supper, thus marking them out as those who have submitted to Jesus Christ as King.
 - The ministers are to preach the word and administer the sacraments, and the ruling elders are to give oversight to this ministry.
 - c. And so in praying for the kingdom to come,
 - You are praying for the ministry of the word to flourish and prosper so that many will believe...
 - And you are praying that God would raise up labourers to carry the gospel all over the world...
 - All with the goal of bringing all things in subjection to Jesus Christ the King.

TRANS> And growing out of this prayer for the kingdom to come is the third petition:

C. "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

- 1. We are to long that God's commandments would be obeyed the same way they are in Heaven...

- without wavering, completely, sincerely, willingly, fervently, readily, swiftly, and constantly.
 - We are shown glimpses of heaven with the Seraphim in flight, ready to go in whatever direction God calls them.
 - That's the way it is in heaven, and we are to pray that it will be this way on earth.
2. If you have seen the glory and wisdom of God,
- a. If you know something of the beauty of Jesus Christ who perfectly submitted to His will...
 - Then you know how desirable it is that God's will should be done on earth as it is in heaven!
 - What a beautiful place this world would be if we all loved God as Jesus did and loved one another He has loved us!
 - What harmony and what peace there would be on earth!
 - b. This is not a request that God would carry out His plan,
 - but it is a request that all the world would obey Him.
 - We are not to be concerned that God would do what He is going to do,
 - but our concern is that we, as human beings, should do our duty to God... that we should obey Him in all things as God.
 - That we should repent of our sins and believe the gospel.
 - And then that we should bear fruit for Jesus Christ.
 - c. Those who are born again have this desire that God should be obeyed by them as well as by others...
 - This is our place as human beings...
 - We must keep on praying that God's will would be done on earth until it is done on earth as it is in heaven.

TRANS> And so in these first three petitions, the Lord teaches us to pray that every creature on earth would bless God.

- This is your desire if you are a true disciple of Jesus Christ....
- The second section, which is also made up of three petitions, is...

III. The request that God would bless us.

- Who is the "us" in these three petitions?
 - It is the "us" who has just prayed that the whole world would bless God!

- This is a request that we who are committed to blessing God would ourselves be blessed!
- That we would be blessed in our efforts as we seek to hallow God's name, to build His kingdom, and to do His will!
 - We need to pray for God's blessing because we cannot prosper in the work of blessing God without it...
 - And you should be encouraged to pray this—
 - Surely God will help you if your desire is to bless Him!
 - God has promised to bless us in this work because this work pleases Him.
 - He has already blessed His Son, and He promises to bless us when we join with Him to manifest God's name in the earth.

A. Jesus begins with our most basic need, "Give us this day our daily bread."

1. Here we see how deep our dependence really is!
 - a. If God opens His hand, we are satisfied with food,
 - If He closes it, we perish!
 - We cannot do the work of blessing His name without our daily bread.
 - Those who lie in the grace are silent on the earth.
 - b. If we are here to serve Him, it is only fitting that we should ask Him to maintain our lives.
 - In asking for **daily** bread,
 - we are taught to look to Him for each day's provision...
 - we have to keep coming back day after day in recognition that we do not live by our own power, but His continual provision.
 - And, in asking for **daily** bread,
 - We also look to Him for the portion that He has for us for each day and each season of our lives.
 - We must learn how to be rich and how to be poor...
 - We must learn what is right for us each day.
 - And, in asking that He **give** us this bread,
 - we recognise that even though we work for it and it is rightly ours as far as our relation to other men...
 - that as far as God is concerned, it is His gift to give or to withhold.

2. See in this request that God's mercies extend even to the smallest matters!
 - a. He knows that we are frail and that without air and water and bread, we would perish...
 - And He is pleased to provide us with these things...
 - b. Understand under the word **bread** is included all that is needed to sustain our physical life...
 - We look for food, for health in our bodies, for tools to fulfil our callings, for things to cheer us and make us glad, for sleep, for shelter, for peace in our land, for good government, even for good weather...
 - Rain for our crops and protection from destructive storms.
 - We are so small and so dependent!
 - Let us entrust to God the provision of our daily bread!
 - This prayer will be fully answered when we get to heaven where there will be no more sickness and no more unsatisfied hunger ever again.

TRANS> But of course we need far more than the preservation of our bodies to bless God in the earth.

- We have this huge problem called sin...
- Nothing gets in our way more.
- And so we pray for what God has promised in His covenant:

B. First, that He would forgive our iniquities and remember our sins no more...

- The words are, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."
1. Just as we need daily bread, so we need daily forgiveness...
 - Jesus teaches us here that forgiveness is to be matter of everyday prayer.
 - a. It is true that if you are in Christ, you have already been justified through faith in Him...
 - You are perfectly righteous in God's eyes because Christ has shed His blood for your sins and fulfilled all the requirements of God's law for you...
 - But this is not a prayer to be justified...
 - This is a prayer for Christ's disciples who have already been justified to receive daily forgiveness from their heavenly Father.
 - b. The difference is that you are coming as a child who is subject to His chastening and correction...

- not as a condemned sinner who is looking for a pardon!
 - but as a beloved son who has displeased your loving heavenly Father!
 - As a son who does not want anything to come between you and your Father.
 - You are not coming to get washed all over—that has been done—but to have your feet washed.
- c. If you think you don't have any such daily sins to be cleansed from, then this prayer is not for you...
- 1) This is a prayer for Christ's disciples who are poor in spirit and mourn over their sin...
 - It is not for the self-righteous.
 - 2) Nor is it for those who think they can pay for their sins themselves.
 - If you think you can do some act of penance to pay for your sin, or do enough good to make up for the bad,
 - why would you ask for **forgiveness** of your debt?
 - You would not ask for forgiveness, but for God to accept your payment.
 - When a debt is forgiven, it means that you do not bear the loss yourself!
2. But what should we make of the condition that Jesus puts on this request!
- a. Jesus says that we are to pray that God would forgive our debts *as we forgive our debtors*.
 - And He even underscores this in a footnote at the end of the prayer in verse 14-15, declaring that God won't forgive us if we do not forgive our brother!
 - Matt 6:14-15: For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
 - What does this mean?
 - b. Note well, Jesus says, "**Your heavenly Father** will forgive, or won't forgive..."
 - 1) The point is not that you will lose your salvation if you don't forgive your brother—
 - The point is that **your heavenly Father** will remain displeased with you and will continue to chasten you until you forgive your brother!
 - He is still your Father, but you are under His fatherly displeasure until you repent.

- 2) In your refusal to forgive your brother,
 - you are showing that you don't understand the forgiveness of God toward you!
 - Your debt is much greater, and you think God should forgive it,
 - but you can't forgive your brother's debt that was only against you!
 - The cause of such behaviour is either that you are not really one of Christ's true disciples at all...
 - or that you are, but are living inconsistently with your faith and will be dealt with by the loving discipline of your Father in Heaven.

TRANS> The true child of God cannot rest until He has obtained His Father's forgiveness.

- But if you are a sincere disciple who wants to see God's name hallowed, His Kingdom established, and His will done on earth,
 - Obtaining daily forgiveness will not be enough...
 - You will also want to be free of the sin that causes you to need this forgiveness!
- You will look to God in prayer for the second promise of His covenant...
 - That He would write His law on our hearts, and give us a heart to do His will.
- You will be troubled by the evil all around you and in you...
 - Like Isaiah, you will lament!
 - "I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips!"
 - Here we are,
 - the people who are supposed to be promoting God's glory and kingdom...
 - and our lips are uttering lies and perversity!
 - And so you will pray the third petition...

C. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...

1. Indeed, if you are in Jesus Christ,
 - God has given you new life in Him...
 - You are no longer the servants of sin, but have become the servants of righteousness.

2. But you know how weak you are...
- a. You know how quickly you can be drawn away from God when the least temptation comes knocking at your door...
- The word **temptation** means a test of your faith...
 - Such a test was given to Abraham when he was commanded to offer Isaac as a sacrifice...
 - And such a test was given to Jesus when He was led into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil.
 - As an earnest disciple, it is your business to flee from temptation...
 - And if you are trying to avoid temptation, you will certainly pray to God that He not lead you into it in the course of His providence.
 - When God in His fatherly wisdom wants to put you to the test, He will and it will be good for you as it was for Abraham...
 - You are to submit to the test without grumbling,
 - but if your attitude is right about temptation, you will want to avoid it if at all possible, and you will ask God for this...
 - Even Jesus prayed that the cup might pass from Him if it were possible... that He would be kept from temptation.

TRANS> And then there is the second part of this request—

- b. Deliver us from evil.
- You know that there is plenty of corruption that remains in you and in the church...
 - You have unclean lips and dwell among a people of unclean lips...
 - So you are to pray that God would not only keep us from temptation to sin, but that He would also deliver us from evil that we are already involved in...
 - Some versions say, “from the evil one” and this is grammatically possible, but not as likely for two reasons...
 - because Satan is never referred to in this way in the Hebrew or Aramaic writings...
 - and secondly, because if Jesus only teaches us to pray that we be delivered from the evil one, then there is no prayer for deliverance from the evil of the world and the evil in our flesh.
 - And so I believe that this is a prayer that God would deliver us from evil of every kind that keeps us from blessing Him!

- c. There is so much evil in us and about us that we don't even see it sometimes...
 - So this is a prayer not only that God would deliver us from the evil that we see, but also from the evil we do not yet see.
 - There are sinful attitudes and ways of thinking that are just part of the atmosphere in which we live—
 - things that are so deeply ingrained in us that we don't even see them now...
 - And so this prayer to deliver us from evil includes the prayer
 - not only that God would give us grace to repent and turn from the sin that besets us...
 - but also that God would teach us His will and give us discernment so that we can identify those areas where our thoughts are not His thoughts and our ways are not His ways.
 - If you examine the Prayers of David and prayers of Paul in the epistles, you will find that this is often what is prayed for...
 - Teach me to do your will, give us discernment, etc.

Conclusion:

And so you see the three blessings that we seek from God if we are among those who truly want to see Him blessed:

- Those who first want God's name to be hallowed, His kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth,
 - will also want daily bread, forgiveness of sin, and deliverance from evil.
 - You are in sync with Christ whose supreme desire was to bring us to God!
 - You want the world to bless God and you yourself want to bless Him together with all your brothers and sisters in the church...
 - And if this is your desire, this will be the focus of your prayer.

Examine yourself by this prayer...

- does this prayer express your desires?
- Jesus lovingly guides you into the things you should be praying for.

It is all about God and His glory...

- As the conclusion of the prayer states:
 - Yours is the kingdom and the power and glory forever, Amen!
 - Nothing else really matters—everything is about Him and for Him,
 - and we must learn to pray that it would be so with us on earth.