

Pray Like Jesus // The Lord's Prayer

Last week Pastor Joe - temptation to avoid the cross. cling to the cross.
[open your bibles to Matthew 6:9-13]

Emaline and Elijah // the word “father” completely changed.

I have two kids... There is nothing like coming home

Parallels between our relationship with God & kids with parents

- my kids didn't choose me as their dad.
- and add to that... my love for them is not based on their performance.
- And my kids are really powerless in relation to me.

This is how our relationship with our heavenly father is.

- we are *powerless*. this is what it says in **Romans 5:6**
- we don't have the power to rescue, to redeem. we are completely *passive*.

We pray a prayer to the Father and **we pray as people who are powerless**. Not as people who believe prayer is powerless, but as people who are ourselves powerless in what we can do for our own salvation.

James 5:16 - Not because we are powerful or effective. Because the prayer of the powerless is powerful and effective.

The prayer of the powerless is shaped by the Gospel because it does not seek it's own power, it's own action, it's desires, but it relies on the power of the Father.

- Just as my kids are completely reliant on me...
- Matthew 7:11 - *“how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him.”*

***note about earthly father relationships** // [Read Matthew 6:9-13]

Our Father.

These 2 words are important because they shape how we pray. / **1 John 3:1**
In order to pray with an understanding of God as Father, we must also understand Jesus.

When we misunderstand Jesus it leads to us praying like a prodigal or a pharisee.

- the *prodigal* says to the father, “i wish you were dead.”
- the *pharisee* says to the father, “why haven't you blessed me?”

When we understand who Christ is and what he's done, we don't pray as a prodigal or a pharisee, we pray as a son or daughter.

Because those two simple words speak of the relationship we have through Christ.

Prayer cannot be separated from the promise of the Gospel. **As sons and daughters, our prayers are shaped by the promise of the Father.** The promise that are sins

are forgiven, that we are made the family of God by the death and resurrection of Jesus... promise that we can call God “Father”

And so we pray so we pray prayers *TO OUR FATHER WITH CONFIDENCE*.

1) The promise makes our prayers PERSONAL

The word father is deeply personal // relational // who calls me dad

The promise of God is both universal and personal. It's as *wide* as saying it's for all people, but it's as *personal* as saying, “This is for you.”

- god so loved the world, for all people

Faith trusts that what Jesus did, he did for you. Without faith, the universal love of the Father has no effect. Faith, created by the Spirit, which trusts in the work of the Son makes the universal love of Father personal.

[Jan 1, 1863 - Abraham lincoln declared a general emancipation]
the general freedom for all slaves is still true for all people...

The prayer that is shaped by the promise doesn't simply pray to a God that knows all, loves all, and created all. But it is prays to a God that knows me, that loves me, that created me.

Psalm 103:13 // This is personal

2) ARE PRAYED IN CONFIDENCE [wedding vows]

because when God makes a promise that says, “nothing in all of creation can separate you from the love of God...” that should create faith.

Hebrews 4:16 - approach the throne of grace w/ confidence

We can be confident in our prayers as we approach God because he has promised that he is our father. And so we approach him confidently as dad.

And so we pray “Our Father” and we pray it confidently. We pray with confidence knowing the PROMISE of the GOSPEL. By faith in the work of Jesus, we are called sons and daughters of the Father.

- we know what our father has promised when we pray “deliver us from evil” and “forgive us” that he has promised the forgiveness of sins.

The words “Our Father” are foundational in the Lord's Prayer and they are foundational in all of our prayers. Because in calling God father, we trust that God is the loving father and we trust that by the work of Christ we are called sons and daughters.

I want to share with you a paper I wrote in 3rd Grade.

[“The Day I Officially Became a Grunewald” - *show image on screen*]
- On October 17, 1995 I became a Grunewald.

2 Corinthians 6:18 + [Read Galatians 4:4-7, NLT] + Eph 1:5 (NLT)

And so we pray to a Father and those adopted into the family.