

Teach Us To Pray Part 3, Our Daily Bread

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Hey the Bible says to give honor where honor is due, so I want to give a shout out to Pastor Andrew Pitts, our Warren Campus Pastor as he co-authored this sermon. We wrote it together. =) If you're listening online this morning and you live in or near the Warren Ohio area, be sure to visit our Warren Campus!

Outline:

- Recap of last week's big ideas (3 min)
- What is Prayer? (3 min)
- Bread From Heaven | Wilderness Miracle | Fresh Daily | EX 16, NU 11, JOS 5
- Hagar | God Sees Me
- Jesus' Declaration in JN 6:28-40 | He is Living Bread Who Satisfies Us
- Prayer Unites us with God's Will to see People Believe JN 38-40
 - IOW When we pray, we become missional

Opening Prayer >

Main Points

Last Week Recap:

The Lord's prayer is a template not a ritual.

When we pray, we pray from a place of promise, not problems.

We are Citizens of Gods Kingdom not an earthly kingdom built on earthly positions.

Our mission is to expand God's kingdom through kindness and praying for healing just like Jesus told us to.

When we pray, we connect heaven and earth, the stars and the dirt.

This Week, we'll continue learning

What Is Prayer?

In prayer, we learn what GOD wants and we surrender our will to His.

In our prayer, our spirit-man is satisfied; Our daily satisfaction (our bread for life) is our relationship with Jesus, the Living Bread.

(Not in theory, but in reality; we are truly satisfied and filled with joy)

In business, there's a phrase called "Preferred Outcomes"

A preferred outcome is the best-case scenario if everything works the way it is supposed to. It is the achievable goals set up to gauge the overall success of the endeavor.

In Matt 6 in the Lord's prayer statement #2 – Thy Kingdom Come, thy will be done, On Earth as it is in Heaven. Essentially what this passage is saying is as we pray, that the Will of God be accomplished in the Earth – that the perfection of Heaven be manifest on the Earth. This is what we would call the preferred outcome – This is the best-case scenario if everything works out the way it is supposed to. – Understand God is willing to play his part so that His power and His ways are expressed here on the Earth. The remarkable thing is that it's expressed through us! We are image-bearers of His Kingdom. We are glory-carriers and miracle-workers and grace-givers!

Later in that same passage, Jesus tells not to worry about the elements of this world like our clothes or house or income status or social status but instead to ...

“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you as well.” MT 6:33

The message of the Kingdom of God or Heaven depending on your translation was essential to the life and teaching of Jesus.

When Jesus steps onto the scene and begins teaching one of the very first things He says is found in Matthew 4:17

From that time on, Jesus began to preach saying, “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.” “Kingdom of Heaven” and “Kingdom of God” being used interchangeable it would seem.

We must reconcile something in these passages and that is when Jesus was speaking of the kingdom of God or of Heaven He wasn't speaking in most cases of where we go in the afterlife but

rather, He was speaking concerning what we can experience on the Earth in the years we have.

So, to answer the question "What is the Kingdom we are wanting to come?"

1 Corinthians 4:20 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

The Kingdom is something not only to be heard about and thought on but should be experienced. It can't just be or shouldn't just be preached. It should be seen and felt in our everyday lives! Our faith should be marked by the experiential with God. It should not just be something we read about in the Bible or talk about in small groups but that it should be experienced. That experience requires faith. Romans says that "It is impossible to please God without faith." So we must believe it; we must have faith that Jesus meant what He said - that anything is possible! By the way, it's only a miracle to us - to Jesus, it's everyday accessible power.

Jesus can be your daily bread that brings you total satisfaction and joy, no matter what is the bank account and no matter what degree is on the wall, no matter what is going on in life!

Romans 14:17 - 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

This illustrates to us the difference between the external, natural temporary things that will pass away – Such as eating and drinking and serves to focus us on matters more central to who Jesus is and what God wants from his Children

Righteousness outlines our relationship with God, for having been forgiven of our sins, we have been placed into right relationship with Him and it behooves us to live righteously before Him all the days of our life. And He has promised to uphold us with His righteous right hand, all the days of our life. Like David, we can grow to a place where we seriously enjoy His laws and His ways - where like David, we say that we "delight in doing the will of God"

Peace is the status that we are called upon when dealing with our fellow men and Christian brothers so that as far as it depends on us, we are to live at peace with all men, reflecting the character of our heavenly Prince.

Joy should be the outer expression of our inner attitude of contentment, for the joy of the Lord is not only our strength but our eternal sufficiency. It's a SUPER-natural work of the Spirit to give you JOY - spirit-filled JOY despite any situation you're in.

Despite the circumstance of the outside world, I can have JOY on the inside if I am seeking first the Kingdom of God, praying and living as God intended because knowing Jesus, face to face, heart to heart, has become my “daily bread” my sustenance!

When we display that sort of joy in life, people around us like co-workers and neighbors can see it and it affects them! It can inspire them to also put their trust in Jesus!

The 80's Toys were awesome - Transformers.

A transformer spends its time as one thing only to then flip and turn into something completely different when needed. It's an instant change that makes a big difference. Robots in disguise! I remember hearing that commercial, the song and having one of these toys! It was awesome. It would suddenly reveal who it really was and what it was really capable of when needed.

That's what we're talking about in this portion of the Lord's prayer – As Jesus communicates to his disciples, he is wanting to get them to understand that the kingdom coming to earth has the capacity and ability to transform the earth as it is into something entirely different. You can be walking through WalMart and no one know the power that resides with you. You don't look like a hero, like one who carries miracles. You just look like ... YOU. But suddenly you see someone in need and you offer to pray for them and it's like this revealing takes place - to the person being prayed for, it can even be shocking. Like “WOW. Thank you so for praying for me!” And if they're healed right there, it's like “WOW! Thank you SO MUCH for praying for me! I feel amazing now!”

PRAYER IS DAILY GETTING GOD'S WILL & HEART

Finding that will should be a consistent and intentional conversation with God daily so that we can make sure our priorities align correctly with Gods larger will for the earth. **Our decisions about everything should be conversations with God.**

Expound

Paul teaches us to pray in Ephesians 3...

Even though Paul is writing this from prison he is writing from a place of promise he is not coming to God with his problems as we so often do starting his prayers off in a reactionary mode.

Paul is writing from a place of promise, from a place of knowing who God is in his position and what he has promised us as his beloved children. This is why it's remarkably important remarkable and important to start off our prayers like we learned last week how would be your name because you are a father in heaven and we are your children here on earth and everything the father has belongs to us.

Jesus said this numerous times everything the father has given him he gives to us. He even gave us a parable that is so often called the prodigal son and when the prodigal son returns home the older brother as you might know is angry and the father responds by saying everything I have is yours.

So the older brother was living with a scarcity mindset not understanding the revelation of the fathers love he wasn't praying or living from a position of promise but instead from a position of competition, from my position of Problems.

We live in a world that is constantly competing for our attention our mind and imagination is filled with the problems that we have to solve - worries about our future our kids future or task list at work or task list at home and by the times seven or 8 o'clock rolls around we just need a TV show to numb my brain for a little bit and I'm not against that I'm just saying when we pray we can't just come from a position of problems like we so often do. I think the Bible teaches us a better way to pray. We start with **OUR FATHER HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME!** When we start the day like that everything changes! Every problem then is an opportunity for a miracle.

Rather we need to begin to pray for the position of promise like Paul said "... to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine..."
Like Jesus said our father, our father who has made everything available to us his

You see **Most of us pray from a reaction-to-problems position. What if we begin to pray from a position of promise?** so that way as I go about my day I am coming at it knowing who my father is and His abilities he carries and the abilities and miracles he has given me.

A child who knows they they are incredibly loved and totally provided for doesn't live with scarcity mindset. They live with a generous mindset.

Fostering Child Hoarding

2 1/2 years ago when Danielle and I were taking foster care classes we learned that no matter how much food you make available to this new child who comes into your home they will often hoard food from the pantry and hide it in your closet or under their bed.

Even though you as the parent tell them that they have access to the entire pantry in the fridge is just down the hall they will often still hoard food by granola bars and different things because they have been so used to living with the scarcity mindset they have to look out for themselves.

I wonder how many of us pray and live like that - with a scarcity mindset? not truly believing that everything the Father has given us access to is readily available to us. We hoard the granola bar and the small bits of food and we are just thinking about ourselves instead of living in the joy of God's provision knowing we have full access to the entire pantry and the fridge which is chock-full of food.

I wonder if we were to begin to live like a beloved child and an heir if we would not then begin to share what the father has given us knowing he is never going to run out!!!!

I think so many Christians don't become missional because they haven't first settled the matter of their own identity as a fully loved, fully provided for child.

They're not sharing their faith and praying for God to heal the sick their neighbors who are ill - pray for their coworkers who are sick because they still somehow

living with a scarcity mindset that God *might* be able to help them with their problem and their problem only like hiding the granola bar under the bed.

To continue the illustration if we were to pray from a position of promise and the identity of a beloved child then we would be extending what God has provided to lots of people around us! Right?

My kids know that there is a ton of ice cream and popsicles in the fridge. They know they have a right to have them - they also know to ask first =) most the time =)

Because they know they they are MY kids with access to MY FRIDGE and that there is PLENTY, they offer those same popsicles to the neighbor kids! They don't live with a scarcity mindset. They ASK the Father (me =) and I gladly give them to Frankie and Alley and Leo and Landon and all the neighbor kids.

Lukas, I'll have you know, does NOT live with this mindset! LOL. He feels he has access to ALL the treats at ALL TIMES, EVERY DAY!

Our prayers are often born from being worried instead of from a place of faith; they're often reactive instead of proactive but I think I want to change that in us. I'm not saying that when we face a problem we can't come to God with it. I'm just saying, if we were to pray like Jesus and like the Apostle Paul, we would first be praying from a position of promise and not from a reaction to problems.

“Prayers primary purpose is not problem removal. It is promise application.” - Pastor Tyler Staton, Bridgetown

When Jesus says in the Lord's prayer “Give us our daily bread” I think He was speaking not only of provision but of the satisfaction that can only come through friendship with Him.

When Jesus said “Daily” I believe He was referencing the daily mana from heaven that came down in the wilderness.

Manna - Bread from Heaven | EX 16, NU 11, JOS 5

The Israelites had been miraculously delivered from slavery in Egypt. You might know the story. Moses, raised in Pharaoh's home, escapes Egypt as a young man after seeing the pain the Israelite people were in. God finds him in the desert alone and calls him to be the leader of His people during an encounter with a burning bush.

Moses accepts the call, reluctantly of course, and faces Pharaoh, demanding he let the people of Israel go - freeing them from their slave labor.

Pharaoh said "No" but after plagues and pestilence brought on by God himself, Pharaoh gave in and let them go.

They're now roughly 3 million people in the wilderness without food and water. What are they going to do!?!

God decides to give them bread from heaven. Manna, as it's called, literally fell from the sky in order to feed them!

Ex 16:31-35 Now the house of Israel called its name manna. It was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. Moses said, "This is what the Lord has commanded: "Let an omer of it be kept throughout your generations, so that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

Ex 16:15-19 When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.'"

Nu 11:8 The people went about and gathered it and ground it in handmills or beat it in mortars and boiled it in pots and made cakes of it. And the taste of it was like the taste of cakes baked with oil.

Jos 5:12 And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

This is remarkable. We talked about miracles last week. This is a MIRACLE! Not only was it bread that sustained them but its as bread that tasted like honey - like a cake - it satisfied them!

Side note - for anyone who is going through a wilderness season, I want to encourage you today with this: The wilderness season is terrible; nobody likes it. You're out of your normal comfort zone and routines. God has you in a place you don't want to be - in between what was and what is yet to come - it's the wilderness - it's dry - it's lonely but I have news for you. **It's in the wilderness that you see the miracles.**

Once they got into the promised land, they didn't need mana to fall from the sky. Yes of course the entry to the promised land itself was a miracle but stay with me here. The mana stopped the day after they ate the produce from the land of Canaan. God will simply take you from miracle to miracle!

The mana from heaven for the Israelite people was a picture of what Jesus would do for all believers around the world centuries later. Jesus would become our bread from heaven, our daily satisfaction.

Expound on this

Communion is a form of a prayer.

Communion is a beautiful picture of the body of Christ coming together. The bread presents not just Jesus but his very presence among us that gives us sustenance and life.

Who comes to the table of the Lord? Let's shorten that. Who comes to the table? Family.

At the table of the Lord the bread is shared. Among family.

At the table when we eat, just like at the Lords Table, every story matters, including yours. Every background is valued. Every family member matters. You matter to Jesus. Jesus wants to matter to you.

At the Lords Table, every story matters. When Jesus becomes "our daily bread" and we are sustained and satisfied by His love and friendship, then we see the world the way He does so we love people the way He does.

It's amazing to me how many Christians want to eat at the table of the Lord but not eat beside people of a different race or financial status or upbringing.

At the table of the Lord it is the bread of Jesus that unites us. It unites us as family. **You can't have the feast without the family.**

Prayer for others and with others supernaturally reminds us of our joint need for the Father and His love.

God knows your name and your life is filled with His glory now matter how insignificant you feel - now matter how unknown you are - no matter how unpopular you are - no matter how poor you are, no matter your circumstances, Jesus KNOWS YOU and loves YOU!

Hagar's Story

Let's back up about 1000 years to the time of Abraham.
Hagar meets God - Gen 16

Who is Hagar?

She was the slave of Abraham and Sarah. They were given a promise by God that in their old age, God would give them a miracle - and not just any miracle of one child but the miracle of a thousand miracles - they'd have more grandchildren than there are sand on the shore.

They didn't wait for the promise to happen - they thought they'd hurry it along. So they had their servant Hagar sleep with Abraham so she'd give birth. This wasn't terribly uncommon in their culture to ensure their family name could continue. But in this case, it was doubly wrong because God had a plan and they were unwilling to wait for it (there's a sermon there for another day)

But God used this failure to once again prove His love. As usual, God takes our mess and makes something beautiful out of it.

Hagar was feeling the anger and resentment coming from Sarah as you can imagine Sarah was throwing all kinds of shade at Hagar - this young Egyptian woman who was able to give her husband what she could not - a son. This young woman no less sleeping with her husband!

After Hagar began to show - possibly in her 4th or 5th month, she began to fear for her life she was getting treated so poorly by Sarah. So she ran. She ran into the wilderness and there, she was risking her life feeling it was better than living in the hatred of Sarah's stare.

And there, God found her!

God not only found her but called her by name.

Hagar. God knew her name!

God speaks to her and begins with a question ...

Genesis 16:8-16 (ESV): And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." 9 The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." 10 The angel

of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." 11 And the angel of the Lord said to her,

"Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has listened to your affliction. 12 He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen." 13 So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, El Roy "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." 14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered. 15 And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram."

So it was FOURTEEN years later when Sarah became pregnant and God would fulfill His promise to Abraham and Sarah. But FIRST, God took the mess that Abraham made and made something beautiful out of it for Hagar.

Hagar had three strikes against her:

- 1. She's a woman**
- 2. She's Egyptian**
- 3. She's a slave**

There's no logical reason for God to even name her. Culturally, she was rejected; she was of the very lowest social status and to the Jewish people, being an Egyptian was yet another trick against her.

But in God's rich love and mercy, He knows every name and loves each person the same.

Hagar named God "El Roy, God who sees me."

God sees you and knows your name.

He knows you - The pain in you - The everyday life that you live that you think no one notices. God sees you and knows you.

You can't escape the love of God. You can't run from him. You can try. But wherever you run, He is there, waiting for you, waiting to love you. He knows your name!

Jesus is the Living Bread for all who will receive Him! Maybe as you heard her story you identified with her. Maybe you too have felt left out or rejected. Maybe you were rejected in a relationship and honestly, it devastated you. These heartaches in our life brings us to our knees. They cause us to crumble and sense the weight of our humanity. When we are rejected and hurt - whether that's in high school and you're not included in the right crowd or you didn't wear the "right" clothes - that rejection can stick with you unfortunately. Whether you've been divorced or maybe you're marriage is near divorce as your spouse is getting more and more distant and the pain is deepening... hear me today - GOD KNOWS YOU AND THE PAIN YOU'RE IN.

Jesus can be your daily bread that not only sustains you but satisfies your deepest needs. He goes then beyond the needs you have and blesses you with joy and abundance!

Did you notice too that Hagar received Jacob's blessing! Hagar received the blessing given to Abraham! He passed on the blessing to this Egyptian Slave Woman! God too wants to bless you. Despite the shame you feel. Despite the mistakes of your past. Despite the way that others have hurt you or left you out, the pain they left you in. Despite the fears that keep you awake at night, God knows your name and wants to bless you! JESUS, the Son of God and Son of Man, really can bring you out of shame, despair and sadness and into a life of joy and peace! He is our daily bread! His loving kindness is FRESH every morning. His mercy is new every morning!

Let's fast forward over 1,000 years to when Jesus entered the scene. Some people were curious

John 6:28–40 (ESV): Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” 29 Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” 30 So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written,

‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” 32 Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” 34 They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

Jesus makes it clear that in the same way that God the Father gave bread to their ancestors in the wilderness - mana falling from heaven - to sustain them and nourish them - the same Father had sent Him into the world to sustain them - to become all they need to not only survive but thrive!

Jesus came to do the will of the Father and that will was to take care of you! Why? He loves you so much! He is that loving. The one attribute most given to God by Jesus is that of FATHER. And what does every father know his primary job is? To feed his children. Ask any many what he wouldn't do to get food for his kids if they were starving. They'll all respond "Nothing would stop me from getting food for my kids."

God the Father has not only provided bread for you to eat. **God the Father provided Jesus, the Bread of Life, so that the Glory of God can fill the whole earth ALL the time wherever you are! In the same way that Father's provide bread for their children, God the Father provided Jesus for you.**

This is why I've often told our Life Group leaders "Don't skip the meal because something supernatural happens when we break bread together."

Jesus knew this.

Think about it. If it didn't matter, if Jesus wasn't trying to make a point, would He have ever had dinner with people? No. He would've said "I'll teach you and you listen and then come back next week."

But no. **Jesus shared life with them by sharing bread with them.**

Let's summarize:

To whom do we pray? The Father!

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better." Ephesians 1:17

What do we pray? The Father's will and His Kingdom come.

Thy kingdom come -You are declaring that you want to see things happen on the earth that are full of the manifest power of God and experienced in Heaven.

Thy will be done – You are saying that you are laying aside yourself driven interests, wants, and desires and aligning yourself with the interests, wants and desires of God.

It allows a proper shift from the temporary things of the world to the eternal things of Heaven.

It's a belief that we should see healings, miracles, signs and wonders.

It's a belief that we should be seeing people who are despondent and hopeless given joy and hope! Allowing for The Will of God on the earth begins to set things in their proper order and place. It normalizes the supernatural and makes room for it in our lives.

Altar – Flow with the Holy Spirit.