

LEARNING TO TALK WITH GOD

Against the Grain – Part 4 of 8

(A study of the Sermon on the Mount – Matt. 5-7)

Matthew 6:5-15

May 2, 2010

5 Lessons from Jesus' Model Prayer:

1. A father prefers (simple, direct) talk from his children.

“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think 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. This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.’” – Matthew 6:6-9

2. Power is unleashed when we pray for the things (God desires) to do.

“...your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” – Matthew 6:10

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.” – 1 John 5:14-15

3. If it matters to you, it (matters to God).

“Give us today our daily bread.” – Matthew 6:11

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” – James 1:5

4. Forgiveness is a gift to be (given) and (received).

“Forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors.... For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” – Matthew 6:12, 14-15

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” – 1 John 1:9

5. We need God's (power) and (protection) far more than we normally realize.

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” – Matthew 6:13

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.” – 1 Peter 5:8-10

“Digging Deeper” Devotional Plan:

Monday: John 17:1-26
Tuesday: 2 Chronicles 20:1-30
Wednesday: Ephesians 1:15-23
Thursday: Ephesians 3:14-21
Friday: Daniel 9:4-19