

DAY 3. TALKING WITH GOD 2: MATTHEW 6: 5-13

<sup>5</sup>“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

<sup>7</sup>“When you pray, don’t babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. <sup>8</sup>Don’t be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! <sup>9</sup>Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,  
    may your name be kept holy.  
<sup>10</sup>May your Kingdom come soon.  
May your will be done on earth,  
    as it is in heaven.  
<sup>11</sup>Give us today the food we need,<sup>[a]</sup>  
<sup>12</sup>and forgive us our sins,  
    as we have forgiven those who sin against us.  
<sup>13</sup>And don’t let us yield to temptation,<sup>[b]</sup>  
    but rescue us from the evil one.<sup>[c]</sup>

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Today we will continue to consider the Disciple's prayer as an example for your personal prayer times. Read verses 11-13 again.

ASK FOR GOD'S PROVISION

“Give us today the food we need.”

What are your immediate material needs? Interestingly, Jesus does not give us permission to ask for God's help in our daily affairs, but says that we must do it. He tells us not to worry about them, but to trust Him. False humility says, "I will not bother the Lord with my little needs." You need to do this! I am glad that Jesus included this in the prayer model, because money issues are always revolving in my head. It is a blessing to talk about them with God. And what is also good, when we pray specifically about our daily needs - this is something to which you can see specific answers, so pray specifically. “Lord, I have to give 1000 Grivena for the lessons of my daughter. Thank you for doing this! ”

What are your material needs today?

## FORGIVENESS

“and forgive us our sins,  
as we have forgiven those who sin against us”

Confessing every day is like taking a shower that makes you clean, not just feeling sorry for yourself for being unclean. Usually, the Holy Spirit will convict you that you have fallen. And He will do it quickly and clearly. (Be wary of feelings that are blurry, or the feeling that you are not good enough. This is condemnation, not conviction from the Holy Ghost.) But sometimes we don't realize that we were unkind, judgmental, or cowardly. In your daily prayer, the Lord will tell you things that you might not have noticed. And you will be assured of His mercy and close relationship with Him. Do not move from this part of the prayer to the next until you are convinced that you are pure.

Many years ago, I was involved in the March for Jesus in St. John. I drove for a long time and prayed about this March. As I chatted with God, He showed me that I had put off buying a \$ 2,000 billboard because I lacked faith and feared for my reputation. He was right. (He is usually always right.) I needed to repent and make a commitment to do what I needed to do. He showed me what I already knew but ignored. And yes, He provided me with the money for this billboard.

You, too, need to forgive those who have been wrong about you. Receiving God's mercy and showing that mercy to others will help your heart to remain gentle and teachable before God. If we do not forgive others, it means that our hearts have become hardened and alienated from the Lord. (More information on this topic later).

Do you know in your heart that you are purified?

## PROTECTION

“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one”

I was 13, I played hockey. The other team consisted of older guys who were still in the 12th grade. I am sure that they all drove up to the sports complex in their cars. One of these giants grabbed my neck with his hand and began banging my head against the arena. Thank God for those who test the strength of helmets. Mine passed the test, I bounced off the arena and my nose, teeth and brains were in place.

The devil would like to beat you, so you need to ask for God's protection. I love the promise of Psalm 91:  
3 " For he will rescue you from every trap  
and protect you from deadly disease.."

Each new day carries with it many different pitfalls of temptation. I love the image of the Lord walking ahead of me, guiding me through these traps that I may not see, but that He sees, and He will not lead you into the trap of the devil.

Traditional people pray “and deliver us from evil”, but there may be a better translation of this phrase - “deliver us from the evil one”. You have a real enemy, but you also have a real Rock, Shelter, and Shield. Don't take the battle lightly. Jesus said: “Watch and pray, lest you fall into temptation: the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” - Mark 14:38.

What do you need God's protection for today?