

BIBLE STUDIES ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6 vs 9 to 13

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Part 4.

PREPARATION

So far during this Bible study we have considered the Father as a Person, and Heaven as a Place. In this particular study consideration will be given to Preparation in readiness for the petitions contained in the actual Lords Prayer. Preparation of the ground on which we approach the Father is very important, because we are not to enter into His presence, and make request to him, in a haphazard way. It is noticeable in the book of Esther that before she went and presented herself to the King she went through a period of Preparation, during which time her spirit and mind were prepared, so that her approach to the King was dignified and with reverence. Whenever Jesus prayed to the Father, it was done in a manner approved by the Father. That is why Jesus could state in John 8 v 39: "the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him". Further John 11 v 41 says: "Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me". When Jesus prayed in the garden, prior to his betrayal and crucifixion, His prayer to the Father is in reverence. Luke 22 vs 41 & 42 says: "He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done". It is vital that we give recognition to the Father when we pray, and it is also important to revere Him in the same way Jesus did.

In giving consideration to the words of Jesus from Matthew 6 v 9: "This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name". We need to observe from the scriptures some of the pre-fixes placed before the Lord's Name. I will highlight here some of them.

Ps:113:2: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore. Psalm 8 v 1: How excellent is thy name in all the earth. 34 v 3: Exalt his

name together. 72 v 19: His glorious name forever. 111 v 9: Holy and reverend is his name. Isaiah 54 v 5: & Jer 32 v 18: The LORD of hosts is his name.

There are also a number of occasions where there is a postscript following the Name of the Lord. The number is quite extensive so I will only list three to illustrate the point.

Psalm 20 v 1: The name of the God of Jacob defend thee. 72 v 17: His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun.

Matt 28 v 19: Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

In a name there are attributes linked to it so whenever a particular name is mentioned we know the person is famous because of their achievements, or notorious because of their bad behaviour. The sound of a name can generate positive or negative feelings in the hearer. Using a name can obtain preferential treatment when used in the hope that a favour will be returned as result of it. The characteristics of a person are identified by their name. The name of something can also tell us what it is associated with, for instance, in the book of Genesis 11 vs 6 to 9: We read:

And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand

one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

The word Babel or Babbling means. 'To Speak without making sense'. In other words talking a lot of gibberish nonsense. A name tells us lot. There are many names God is known by in the scriptures, so I will give you a list of them before we consider the actual words 'Hallowed be thy name'.

ELOHIM "For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords" (Duet 5 v 17) The name Elohim is the name that expresses creative and governing power, of omnipotence, and sovereignty.

EL-SHADDAI "I am the Almighty God" (Gen 17 v 1)

ADONAI "The LORD said unto my Lord" (Psalm 110 v 1) Meaning. Master, Sir, Lord. It is used some 300 times according to Nathan Stones in his book on the names of God.

JEHOVAH English transliteration of Hebrew text's current reading of the divine name

JEHOVAH-JIREH Place name meaning, “Yahweh will provide” (Gen. 22:14). The name Abraham gave to the place where the Lord provided a sacrifice in place of Isaac.

JEHOVAH-NISSI Transliteration of place name meaning, “Yahweh is my banner” Name Moses gave to the altar he built after defeating the Amalekites (Ex. 17:15).

JEHOVAH-SHALOM Place name meaning, “Yahweh is peace” Name Gideon gave to the altar he built at Ophrah (Judges. 6:24).

JEHOVAH-SHAMMA Transliteration of a Hebrew name (Ezek. 48:35) meaning, “The Lord is there”

JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU Hebrew name meaning “The Lord [is] our righteousness” (Jer. 23:6; 33:16)

JEHOVAH-RAPHA For I am the LORD that healeth thee. (Exodus 15 v 26)

JEHOVAH-NISSI And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi. (Exodus 17 v 15)

JEHOVAH- ROHI The LORD is my shepherd. (Psalm 32 v 1) My constant companion.

An analysis of all of these names linked to the LORD will identify the fullness there is in God. All the resources to meet the needs of the whole of humanity are in God, therefore whenever we use the name of the Father we are addressing someone who is to be respected, revered and approached with the understanding of who it is we are communing with. Let us now come to the words Jesus told us to say when we pray.

In observing what the scripture teaches about God as our Father. It has to be clearly stated that the Father’s name is separate because:

1. HIS NAME IS TO BE HALLOWED

“**HALLOWED BE THY NAME**”. The Latin meaning of this is: ‘Sanctified be thy name’. The Greek word for ‘Hallowed’ is ‘Hagiozo’ meaning to sanctify, to give reverence to. Hallowed means that the name of the Father is set apart from others. It is so holy, and we are to reverence it to the degree, that it is to be set free from all abuses. The human tongue, which literally expresses itself in such a liberal way, often abuses the name of the Lord. People at large see no difference whatsoever in employing the Lord’s name alongside any other useless byword.

By praying ‘hallowed be thy name’, approaching, and using the formula Jesus tells us to use, means we are affirming that the Father has a name which is unique and separate from others.

The Greek word also refers to the Father as being Upright and Holy, worthy of reverence. When we say ‘Hallowed be thy name, we are referring to the one who has all the attributes of Deity, attributes which do not exist in any other so-called deity. There is only one God who is hallowed, only one God whose name is to be set aside, and is only to be used by the people who have a deep spiritual regard for it, because they know God personally. It is a name, which should not be used in a flippant manner, but referred to with respect and reverence. God is a holy God. Further, Fathers name is separate because:

2. HIS NAME IS TO BE HONOURED

Thomas Watson in his book on the Lord’s Prayer says: “To admire God’s name is not enough, we admire many people who have accomplished certain things, but we cannot give them the honour of saying that their name is hallowed”.

His name is Honoured because it is Hallowed. This is an honour specifically reserved for God. Men and women are honoured today for their achievements in all forms and areas of life. Some for the discovery of a particular drug to alleviate human suffering; some for the help they give during a particular tragedy; some for the contribution they have made to a social cause; some because of their outstanding sporting ability, and others because through their singing have helped to increase the tax revenue of the country. However it has to be said, not one is honoured by ‘hallowed be your name’.

From my observation of the two points just referred to I would now like to enlarge on them further by stating that the Father’s name is to be Hallowed for it is:

(a) A PREFERRED NAME

Psalm 20 vs 5 & 7 says: “We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God”. And then Psalm 45 v 17: “I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise thee forever and ever”.

In telling us what to say when we pray, Jesus informs us that it is to the Father in heaven that we are to address our words. The name of the Father is preferred more than others as He is the only one with the power to bring to pass what we pray.

When Nehemiah heard of the terrible devastation that had befallen Jerusalem he was deeply moved, the situation affected him and motivated him to pray. In Nehemiah 1 v 5 he prays: “And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven”. Notice he is using the name, which is recognised by Jews as the one who has supremacy, power, and the authority to act on behalf

of the petitioner. We also read in Psalm 113 vs 4 & 5: “The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high”. It is essential to acknowledge the Father when we pray, and at all times give Him preference above any other. The Father’s name is hallowed for it is:

(b) A PROTECTING NAME

The following verses confirm the point I want to make, giving us the confidence to rely on the name of the Lord.

Proverbs 18 v 10: “The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe”. Psalm 27 vs 1 to 3 & 5: “The LORD is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock”.

When Elisha was at Dothan the enemy surrounded the place where he was residing. The servant who was with him was afraid when he saw the number of soldiers arrayed against the city, but as Elisha looked at the situation he saw the city surrounded by an army of the Lord. The servant could not see what Elisha saw, the scripture then says: “And Elisha prayed, O LORD, open his eyes so he may see. Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha”. The Fathers name is Hallowed for it is.

(c) A PROVIDING NAME

There are so many scriptures and instances to illustrate and confirm this point that it is impossible to give it full consideration. It is best therefore for me to mention some of the scriptures, which verify it.

Gen. 22:14: JEHOVAH-JIREH The name meaning, “Yahweh God, The LORD will provide”. The name Abraham gave to the place where the Lord provided a sacrifice in place of Isaac.

Gen 16 vs 13 & 14 we read: “She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me. That is why the well was called BEER LAHAI ROI. It is still there, between Kadesh and Bered. The meaning of Beer Lahai Roi, is ‘Well of living water’. God providing. For forty years as Israel travelled around the Sinai Peninsular the Lord provided for them every day. Jesus said they were provided with manna or bread, which God sent to them six days of each week, and so they could have a days rest on Saturday he gave them twice as much on a Friday.

We read of how the Lord provided for a prophets widow in 2 Kings 4 by telling her to use what little oil she had to fill as many empty vessels as she could find.

We therefore Hallow the Fathers name for it is a Preferred name, a Protecting name, and a Providing name.

Furthermore the Father’s name is to be Honoured. Honoured for it is

(a) A MIGHTY NAME

(b) A MIRACLE WORKING NAME

(c) **A MAJESTIC NAME**

(d) **A MAGNIFIED NAME**

As we have looked tonight at the words ‘Hallowed be thy name’, I trust that we shall have a keener sense of the importance of who it is we are praying to. Then, when we pray, we know that we are praying to someone whose name is separate from the common use, and not like other names we use each day. When we pray we are to say. “Our Father in heaven. Hallowed be your name”.