

The Disciples' Prayer

Monday, 8/10/09 – Hallowed be thy name. Let your name be holy. In this petition we are asking God that his name be held sacred. Probably this is similar to the command that we should not take the name of the Lord in vain. But it also means that if we are His followers that what we do reflects on the name of our leader and therefore we hold his name sacred by the way we act toward others.

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: How can you this week demonstrate the holiness of God's name by your actions. Let your name be holy. Pray this brief prayer several times as you go through your day today.

Tuesday, 8/11/09 – Your kingdom come. Let your kingdom come. In this petition we are asking God that His kingdom which is not a place but it means that we accept Him as our King and will be obedient to his rule in our lives.

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Are you willing to make that commitment? How would that change what you do on a daily basis? How do you reconcile that commitment with your other commitments to your job, your family and your community. Let your kingdom come. Pray this brief prayer several times as you go through your day.

Wednesday, 8/5/09 – Your will be done. Let your want happen. The term will is so often misunderstood because we think that no one can oppose the will of God. But the word "want" makes it clearer. Our prayer should be that we do what God wants and what God wants is obviously not done very much in this world. Jesus' prayer in the garden, in reference to the cross, was, "Not what I want but what you want."

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: If you prayed that prayer daily, how would your life change? Let your want happen. Pray this brief prayer several times as you go through your day.

Thursday, 8/6/09 – Give us today our daily bread. Give us today our sustaining bread. We are asking here for the basic needs of our life and it is not simply physical provisions but the basic needs to live which means both physical and spiritual food. If we never prayed this prayer, most of us would still have food every day. Perhaps this is a prayer reminding us that really everything we receive comes ultimately from God.

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: As you go through the day, ask yourself how do I see God providing for me. Give me today sustaining bread. Pray this brief prayer as you go through your day.

Friday, 8/7/09 – Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us. Trespass is simply a synonym for sin as is the word debt. The real point to this petition is the proviso that our sins will be forgiven but only as we are also willing to forgive those who sin against us. Thus if we hold grudges and are unwilling to forgive we are in essence saying that we do not want God to forgive our sins. My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: What grudges do you need to get rid of? What wrongs to you do you need to forgive? Before you ask God's forgiveness in any prayer today, remember to forgive.

Saturday, 8/8/09 – Lead us not into temptation. Do not bring us into pressure. Pressure is a good word to understand temptation. We all talk about peer pressure to conform and this is true for adults as it is for young people. So this is a prayer that asks God to help us avoid or not succumb to the pressures that are always around us. My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: As you walk through the day be aware of pressures and how can you overcome them. Do not bring me into pressures to do what is wrong. Most of us need to have this as a constant prayer as we go through each day.

Sunday, 8/9/09 – Deliver us from evil. Rescue us from evil. Some translators say evil one rather than simply evil. But our experiences tell us that real evil is a part of this world and we need to be rescued from that evil. It is not simply external pressures but also internal so our prayer is that God will give us strength to overcome evil. Again this is an important daily prayer. My Observations: _____

My Faith Journal, August 9, 2009
The Disciples' Prayer

Matthew

Thusly when you pray
Our Father the one in the
heavens
Let your name be holy
Let your kingdom come
Let your want become
As in heaven, also on earth
Give us today our sustaining
bread
Forgive us our debts
As we also forgive our debts

Do not bring us into pressure

But rescue us from the evil.

Luke

When you might pray, say
Father

Let your name be holy
Let your Kingdom come

Give us each day the
sustaining bread
And forgive us our sins
For we ourselves forgive
all the ones owing us
And do not bring us into
pressure

Each day this week we will concentrate on the meaning of each of the seven petitions in the Disciples' prayer.