

Christ – our Example!

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Wednesday evening teachings have been reminding us that Jesus is our example of how we are to live in the world today! Yes, we have been learning how the human Jesus was able to overcome the trials and challenges in the world.

Matthew 6:9-13 records that one day as Jesus was teaching the people he said,

“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven,”

Notice that Jesus did not say – ‘Dear God.’ He said we should call him **“Our Father”**. There is a relationship if we are to call him Father! Jesus was also letting us know that none of us are more important to God than another: God is **our Father**. We are a family. Yes, we may have differences among us; but we have the same Father.

“Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”

Jesus was instructing us that we needed to greatly revere or respect our heavenly Father. He said to ask God for His kingdom to come and let His will be done in earth (in each of us) as God’s will is done in heaven. To truly have a successful life in God, we must follow what God’s desires are for us. If we try to follow our own desires, we come up short and the supposedly success does not last. God has a perfect heaven. His desire is to be perfected in each of us!

“Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

These three sentences reflect on the three areas of temptation that Jesus faced after He had fasted for forty days and forty nights. We have been discussing on Wednesday evenings how Jesus was **first tempted** with food. This temptation dealt with our basic necessities to sustain life in this world. How many of us get stuck here? We need to keep our minds on where Jesus said to keep our thoughts – asking our Father (who is our provider) to give us today what we need for today and then believe God will provide. He provided before; He will provide again!

The **second temptation** Jesus faced dealt with such emotional torments and fears that we would consider ending our own life. We have all made mistakes by either doing things we shouldn’t have done or by not doing what we should have done. We have all had people either consciously or unconsciously done things against us. We must forgive first ourselves and also others so that God can forgive us of our sins (wrong doings). Our thoughts, when not focused or based on the scripture as stated in Philippians 4:8, can bring torment to our mind – so much so that we lose our hope in God. As we pray and believe this prayer Jesus gave us, the tormenting thoughts (brought by the enemy of our soul) cannot stay!

The **third temptation** Jesus encountered was the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them. The kingdoms of this world deal with power and money. Man (the flesh) desires power and desires money. There is nothing wrong with either if God is number one. However, if these kingdoms are put before God then we find we are not content with what we have. Therein lies the danger and the temptation that traps many people. Jesus knew this and told us to pray ‘lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’

“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”

Jesus ended the prayer by reminding us that God’s kingdom is the **only kingdom** that will give us peace! God is the one who has **the power**. God is the one who has the **glory**. It is God’s kingdom, God’s power, God’s glory that will last forever! There is no other. There will never be any other! God is the beginning and the end! Amen – so be it!