

## “Thy Will Be Done”

Matt. 6:9-13

### Introduction:

1. Jesus Christ was the Master Teacher. Note John 7:45-46
2. Being “the Master Teacher,” Jesus taught many great truths in the first century which are still quoted, studied, and remembered by people who live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
3. Included in those great discourses of Jesus which are referred to and quoted by people today are the instructions set forth in the famous Sermon on the Mount, recorded in Matthew 5-7.
  - a. Included in that famous sermon are the instructions of Jesus concerning the “*manner*” in which He taught His disciples to pray, as set forth in Matthew 6:9-13 (read).
4. This prayer contained six petitions, one of them being “*thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven,*” v. 10.
  - a. This petition, “*thy will be done,*” serves as the title of this lesson.

### Discussion:

#### I. Observations Concerning this Prayer.

- A. It is often called “the Lord’s Prayer.”
  1. Yet we do not read of Jesus actually praying this prayer. He was teaching the disciples concerning the “*manner*” in which they were to pray, v. 9. Compare this with Luke 11:1, and the verses immediately following.
  2. Jesus could not have prayed this prayer in its entirety. Note verse 12, “*forgive us our debts,*” and compare with Heb. 4:15; I Peter 2:22.
- B. This Prayer contained six petitions:
  1. “*Hallowed be thy name,*” v. 9.
    - a. Not just a statement that God’s name is “*hallowed,*” but a **petition** that it might be “*hallowed,*” revered, honored, revered, etc. cf. Psalm 111:9.
  2. “*Thy Kingdom come,*” v. 10.
    - a. His kingdom, at that time, was in the future; it has come! Matt. 16:18-19; Mark 9:1; Col. 1:13.
    - b. We can pray that His “*kingdom*” be spread; We can pray that the rule of the King be carried out in our lives, and in the lives of others.
  3. “*Thy Will be done in earth, as it is in heaven,*” v. 11.
  4. “*Give Us this day our daily bread,*” v. 12.
  5. “*Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,*” v. 12.
  6. “*Deliver us from evil,*” v. 13.
- C. It Contains Three parts.
  1. The preface: “*our Father which art in heaven,*” v. 9.
  2. The Petitions.
  3. The conclusion: “*For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen,*” v. 13.
- D. The Petitions could be put into two categories.
  1. Category one:
    - a. “*Hallowed by thy name,*” v. 9. **God’s** name.
    - b. “*Thy Kingdom come,*” v. 10. **God’s** Kingdom.
    - c. “*Thy will be done,*” v. 10. **God’s** will.
  2. Category two:
    - a. “*Give us this day our daily bread,*” v. 11. **Our** food.
    - b. “*Forgive us our debts,*” v. 12. **Our** forgiveness.
    - c. “*Deliver us from evil,*” v. 13. **Our** deliverance.

#### II. “Thy Will Be done...” v. 10.

- A. The One Whose will is to be done.
  1. The Father’s will! Not my will.
  2. Jesus practiced what He preached! Note Matt. 26:37-39; John 4:34; 6:38.
- B. Meaning of “*Will.*”
  1. Something wished or desired by a person who has authority, a request, a demand.
  2. This point is illustrated in Matthew 21:28-31.
- C. The Importance of doing God’s will.

1. Matthew 7:21.
- D. We can't do His will unless we know it.
  1. We should be like Ezra, Ezra 7:10
- E. What is the Source of God's will?
  1. Is it:
    - a. The voice of the Pope? Elaborate upon the selection and appointment process.
    - b. The decisions of some church conventions?
    - c. The creeds, manuals, catechisms of man?
    - d. The voice of your conscience? Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:12.
- F. Note the Hierarchy of Authority and Revelation.
  1. I Cor. 11:3; Matt. 28:18; John 14:26; John 16:13; Eph. 3:1-5.
  2. The source of God's will is what inspired men wrote.

### III. "In Earth, as it is in heaven," v. 10.

- A. Greek Text: Literally says "*just like in heaven – also upon earth.*"
- B. How is God's will done in heaven?
  1. Half heartedly? "Indifferently?"
  2. God's will in heaven is done perfectly!
- C. Perfectly is how He wants His will done on earth.
  1. Perfection is what we must "shoot for!" Matt. 5:48.
  2. However, we fall short of that mark! Rom. 3:23.
  3. Sin separates us from God! Isaiah 59:1-2; Rom. 6:23.
- D. Hence, this is why we Need:
  1. Grace, mercy, the blood of Christ, the gospel of Christ. Eph. 2:4,8; Matt. 26:28; Rom. 1:16.
    - a. Until one recognizes this he does not realize his need for the gospel.
  2. When one obeys the gospel of Christ, the sin barrier is removed! Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom. 6:17-18.

### IV. What Happened to those who did not do God's will?

- A. Some examples.
  1. Cain, Gen. 4:3-5.
  2. Nadab and Abihu, Lev. 10:1-2.
  3. The Laodiceans, Rev. 3:15-16.
  4. Question: Were any of the sins committed by these the kind of sins people today would call "big" sins?
- B. Two Contrasting Examples.
  1. Saul of Tarsus, Acts 9:1-6.
  2. The Eunuch from Ethiopia, Acts 8:34-36.

### Conclusion.

1. If you are an "alien sinner," can you sincerely pray this part of this prayer unless you demonstrate your willingness to obey the gospel of Christ and to live accordingly?
2. If you are an erring child of God, can you pray this part of this prayer unless you make the needed correction in your life?

--Bobby Witherington, July 19, 2015