

## **TLP | ADORATION: "Hallowed be your name"**

*Sunday October 13th, 2013*

**TEXT: Matt 6: 5-15**

### **RECAP**

TLP: Matthew + Luke + Doxology

6 petitions - 3 Godward + 3 personal needs in context of community

Jesus prefaces his teaching on how we should pray by first telling us how we should not pray. Jesus was pointedly clear that we should not look to religious people for lessons on prayer. Christian prayer is to be humble, simple, respectful, sincere, and relational.

**RELATIONSHIP |** The proper basis for prayer is to approach God as our loving, Heavenly Father who is all-knowing, all-powerful and ever-present, and to view our relationship with him as a family relationship - not a transactional relationship. The only way to be able to do this is to understand that we have been adopted as his children as a sheer act of grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus on our behalf.

If you want to grow in prayer, don't focus on prayer. Focus on God as your Father, your heavenly Dad.

### **INTRODUCTION**

*Matt 6:9: Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*

Today we look at the first petition. We'll first find out what it means, why its first on Jesus' list, and its implications for us.

### **What does hallowed mean?**

Hallowed = hagiozo = to make holy, dedicate, honor, treat as ultimate.

Adoration = the act of regarding with the utmost esteem, love, and respect; the act of paying honor, reverence; fervent and devoted love. *May your name be adored.*

### **1. WHY ADORE?**

*A person will worship something, have no doubt about that. We may think our tribute is paid in secret in the dark recesses of our hearts, but it will come out. That which dominates our imaginations and our thoughts will determine our lives, and our character. Therefore, it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshipping, we are becoming." Ralph Waldo Emerson*

CREATED. We are created to worship, to esteem, to love, to adore.

IDOLATRY. First 2 commandments deal with idolatry/worship. Idolatry is the worship of someone or something else other than God.

EXAMPLE. Celebrity Worship Syndrome- obsessive addictive disorder in which a person becomes overtly involved with the details of a celebrity's life.

Because of the Fall, we continually and naturally make good things ultimate things.

The order is important. Jesus teaches us that Prayer begins with God and the worship of God. He is to be ultimate. Because Jesus knows our prayers can be self-focused. Adoration shapes our view of the world - puts things into perspective - and helps frame the rest of the prayers.

## **2.WHAT'S IN A NAME?**

ILLUSTRATION. (pic) Companies and celebrities spend millions on preserving and maintaining their name, their brand because it is an extension of who they are. Names have significance and meaning. Certainly in bible times, they carried a lot of weight and much thought and prayer went into naming children. Why? Identity, character, reputation are wrapped up in a name.

God delights in having his name known and hallowed ("for my name's sake"). How do we make holy what is already holy? We can't. But we are called to hallow his name.

His name = reputation = manifestation of who God is to us and the world = announcing and demonstrating the King and his kingdom (Jn 17:4).

It's a missional prayer: "Missions exist because worship doesn't" . J Piper

ADORATION --> SUBMISSION = as God's kingdom comes and will is done, so his name is more hallowed.

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Cor 10:31*

APPLICATION PERSONAL. what this means for me and you is that as we adore God and hallow his name privately, we begin to desire his name to be hallowed publicly. We become burdened when we see our family, friends, classmates and colleagues giving their adoration and worship to wrong things.

APPLICATION ENGTA. our public gathering like this is so important not just for us but as a witness to our neighborhood and city - we believe in the hallowing of God. We also believe that God is further hallowed by our diversity as this is a picture of what is described in Revelation 7:9 (tribes, peoples, languages) of heaven one day. We want it to increase this demonstration all over the GTA. Therefore, by God's guidance and grace, we want to establish outposts of worship centers, or should we rename them Hallow centers, all over the GTA that are multi-ethnic, cultural and generational for the glory of God.

## **3.HOW TO ADORE?**

*"You will always pray when the thing that is your greatest treasure is at stake." Tim Keller*

You don't need to teach a person in love on how to adore. Their fascination and captivation with the object of their affection draws out adoration.

What is the thing that you want most? Your prayer life reflects that. e.g. success, health

2 things that help us grow in our adoration of God:

1. RELATIONSHIP --> ADORATION.

ILLUSTRATION. Pendulum: our father (love, care) in heaven (greatness, power) leads to adoration. To the degree I embrace each one is the degree I will adore.

2. GOSPEL. Understanding the gospel helps grow my adoration.

More sinful than ever imagined, more loved than ever hoped - leads to adoration.

Rom 5:8. What did it cost God to satisfy his holy justice? Jesus - Adoration.

When our prayers become thankless and praise-less, it's an indication we've lost sight of the gospel and grace. Because grace teaches us that all of life is a generous gift of a loving Heavenly Father.

Because the gospel teaches that God doesn't give me what I truly deserve (judgement and death), but instead gives me what I don't deserve (forgiveness and life).

*Sometimes I go to God and say, "God, if You never answer another prayer while I live on this earth, I will still worship You as long as I live and in the ages to come for what You have done already. God's already put me so far in debt that if I were to live one million millenniums I couldn't pay Him for what He's done for me." AW Tozer  
Isn't it a comfort to worship a God we cannot exaggerate?" Francis Chan*

Adoration helps magnify God.

EXAMPLE. (pic) microscope vs telescope (The one makes a small thing look bigger than it is. The other makes a big thing begin to look as big as it really is). Worship provides us a telescope to look at God.

## **CONCLUSION**

ADORATION puts God in his rightful place in our lives as Ultimate. We become more like him, and desire what he desires: that His name and reputation be hallowed in all the earth amongst every tribe, people and language. And we can only do this sincerely if we are regularly encountering his grace through the gospel.