

The Lord's Prayer
Lesson 4
"Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"

Introduction.

I. The next petition in the Lord's prayer is found in both Matthew and Luke.

Matt. 6:11 'Give us this day our daily bread.	Lk. 11:3 'Give us each day our daily bread.
---	---

A. The wording of this petition is very similar in Matthew and Luke, but not identical.

B. The wording of the other petitions in Matthew and Luke very a good bit.

1. Jesus omitted one of the petitions when He taught His disciples to pray on a different occasion than He did from the mount.
2. See Luke

MAT 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. MAT 6:10 'Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. MAT 6:11 'Give us this day our daily bread. MAT 6:12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. MAT 6:13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.]'	LUK 11:2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. LUK 11:3 'Give us each day our daily bread. LUK 11:4 'And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.' " The words "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" are omitted in this account. The words "but deliver us from evil" are also omitted.
---	--

C. Once again this shows Jesus did not intend this to be a memorized prayer, but He is giving us some things we are to pray for.

1. He is teaching us a simple, but powerful way to pray to our Father in heaven.
2. What a blessing to be able to pray to the God of the universe and know He hears us and is eager to bless us.

II. There are a number of things that we learn from this petition.

A. We need to analyze this petition and study it in light of other revelation .

B. This petition and the other revelation in God's word, on this subject, helps us immensely on knowing how to pray to God.

I. Recognizes God As The Provider Of Our Blessings

A. "Bread" certainly includes physical bread, but it also stands for our physical needs, that is, the necessities of life.

1. "Bread" (Gr. **artos**) is an example of a synecdoche in which a part (bread) represents the whole (food). See also 2 Thess. 3:8; Acts 2:42.

2TH 3:8 nor did we eat **anyone's bread** without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we might not be a burden to any of you; "Bread" stands for "food" and other such help.

ACT 2:42 And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to **the breaking of bread** and to prayer. "The breaking of prayers" stands for the Lord's supper.

2. The meaning of "daily" (Gr. **epiousios**, eh pee oo see ahs) in Matthew is defined by Luke's account "give us each day."

3. The Greek "epiousios" has several meanings, "for today, for the coming day, necessary for existence, supplied with the coming day, daily or sufficient." Marshall has "Give us each day the bread of us belonging to the morrow."

a. Scholars debate the exact meaning in this prayer.

b. Marshall gives this literal translation of this petition is Luke' account, "Give us each day the bread of us belonging to the morrow." (Lk. 11:2).

c. He renders Matthew 6:11, "The bread of us daily give to us to-day."

4. Jesus did not teach us to pray for an endless supply of bread.

5. We are to pray for "our daily bread."

a. We are not to be anxious about tomorrow. (Matt. 6:34).

MAT 6:34 "Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

b. This did not mean the farmer was not to work his farm or the shepherd was not to tend his sheep or a person was to quit his job.

6. Even if we have an abundant supply of bread, it is God who provided it and permits us to keep it.

B. God is the source of all our blessings. (Psa. 24:1; Jas. 1:17).

PSA 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.	JAM 1:17 Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.
--	--

1. God is the source of all our material blessings. (Jas. 1:17).

2. He is the source of all our spiritual blessings. (Eph. 1:3).

EPH 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in

the heavenly places in Christ,

C. God blesses all men, especially His spiritual children. (Matt. 5:43-45).

1. He blesses all men because He is a good God.
2. He blesses the evil hoping to lead them to repentance. (Rom. 2:4).
3. He blesses His children because they are His children and they seek to please Him.
4. He does not withhold good things from His children (Psa. 84:11).
 - a. What we might define as good is not necessarily what God defines as good.
 - b. He knows what is best for us.

D. Every blessing is the result of God's grace.

1. This is true of salvation. (Eph. 2:8, 9).

EPH 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;
EPH 2:9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

2. This is true of every blessing - it is by God's grace.
3. God owes us nothing, but He blesses us of His own free will and because He is good.

PSA 100:5 For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting, And His faithfulness to all generations.

4. How grateful we should be that we serve a good God - one who loves us and wants to bless us.

E. Out of God's grace and goodness He will give good things to those who ask. (Matt. 7:7-11; Lk. 11:9-13).

MAT 7:7 "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you.
MAT 7:8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.
MAT 7:9 "Or what man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone?
MAT 7:10 "Or if he shall ask for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he?
MAT 7:11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!

LUK 11:9 "And I say to you, ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you.
LUK 11:10 "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it shall be opened.
LUK 11:11 "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he?
LUK 11:12 "Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he?
LUK 11:13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

II. We Must Ask God For Our Blessings

- A. Some might think the all-knowing God knows our needs, and thus He will bless us without asking. (Matt. 6:8).

MAT 6:8 "Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him.

1. This is an erroneous assumption.
2. The Bible abounds in scriptures that teach we must ask for blessings and forgiveness. (Matt. 7:7; Jas. 4:2,3; 1 Jn. 1:9).
 - a. The present imperative is used in Matthew 7:7.
 - b. We must keep on asking, seeking, knocking.
 - c. God will answer our prayers when the time is right.
3. We must ask God for blessings, help, strength, forgiveness, etc.

- B. We must ask **in faith**. (Heb. 11:6; Jas. 1:5, 6).

HEB 11:6 And **without faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Faith is not mentioned in the model prayer, but it is assumed.

JAM 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

JAM 1:6 But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

- C. We must ask **according to God's will**. (1 Jn. 5:14, 15).

1JO 5:14 And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

1JO 5:15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

- D. We must be **persistent in our prayers**. (Lk. 18:1-8; 11:5-8).

1. **Persistent widow** (Lk. 18:1-8).

LUK 18:1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,

LUK 18:2 saying, "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God, and did not respect man.

LUK 18:3 "And there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.'

LUK 18:4 "And for a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man,

LUK 18:5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, lest by continually coming she wear me out.' "

LUK 18:6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said;

LUK 18:7 now shall not God bring about justice for His elect, who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?

LUK 18:8 "I tell you that He will bring about justice for them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

2. Persistent friend (Lk. 11:5-8).

LUK 11:5 And He said to them, "Suppose one of you shall have a friend, and shall go to him at midnight, and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves;
 LUK 11:6 for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him';
 LUK 11:7 and from inside he shall answer and say, ' Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.'
 LUK 11:8 "I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

E. Asking for “daily bread “ is illustrating the fact we must ask God for our needs and depend on Him.

1. This is a very hard petition for the rich who have about everything, and feel very self-sufficient.
2. This is a much easier petition for the poor who have little and have no where else to turn.
3. Many rich refuse to pray this petition because of lack of faith, arrogance, etc.
4. Many poor refuse to pray this petition because of lack of faith, anger, etc.

F. The principle of asking applies to all our blessings.

1. We need to pray that God will bless us with the things we need.
2. We should not pray selfishly. (Jas. 4:3).

JAM 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

G. Here are some things we should pray for.

1. The church	6. Leaders of church	11. Our family and children
2. Salvation of others	7. Leaders of government	12. Our spiritual needs and weaknesses.
3. Forgiveness	8. Wisdom - Jas. 1:5, 6	13. Physical needs
4. Welfare of others and even enemies	9. The sick	14. Overcoming temptation
5. Peace and unity	10. Those who have fallen away.	15. Missionaries and congregations

1. This is not an exhaustive list.
2. Many other things could be [and should be] added to this list.

H. This petition comes from a heart of gratitude and humility.

1. It comes from gratitude for what God has already done for us.
2. It comes from humility because without God we are nothing.

I. This petition also **eliminates anxiety**.

1. It comes from the heart of one who completely trusts God. (Matt. 6:25-34).
2. It comes from the heart of one who knows God will take care of him. (Psa. 37:25; Phil. 4:19).

PSA 37:25 I have been young, and now I am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Or his descendants begging bread.	PHI 4:19 And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
--	---

III. Does Not Exclude Human Effort

A. This petition does not exclude human effort.

1. A farmer who does not plant seed cannot expect a harvest.
2. Someone who will not work cannot expect a pay check.
3. It takes work plus the blessing of God.

B. God will not bless us if we are lazy and unwilling to work. (2 Thess. 3:10).

2TH 3:10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat.

1. We must work to provide our needs and the needs of our family. (1 Tim. 5:8).

1TI 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.

2. We are to work to provide for the needs of others. (Eph. 4:28).

EPH 4:28 Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.

3. John 6:27 is an ellipsis.

JOH 6:27 "**Do not work for the food which perishes**, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give to you, for on Him the Father, even God, has set His seal."

- a. Jesus is not telling us not to work, but He is instructing us not to "work for the food which perishes *only*."
- b. "Bread" (physical food) is not the only thing we need. (Matt. 4:4).
- c. We are to work "for the food which endures to eternal life."

- 4 We are to provide for the needs of our family - even extended family. (1 Tim. 5:8).

1TI 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.

5. Part of honoring parents is assisting them if they are needy. (Matt.15:1-9; Mk. 7:1-13).

MAT 15:1 Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem, saying,
 MAT 15:2 "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."
 MAT 15:3 And He answered and said to them, "And why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?
 MAT 15:4 "For God said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death.'
 MAT 15:5 "But you say, 'Whoever shall say to his father or mother,' Anything of mine you might have been helped by has been given to God, "
 MAT 15:6 he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And thus you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.
 MAT 15:7 "You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying,
 MAT 15:8 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.
 MAT 15:9 'But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' "

MAR 7:1 And the Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered together around Him when they had come from Jerusalem,
 MAR 7:2 and had seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed.
 MAR 7:3 (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, thus observing the traditions of the elders;
 MAR 7:4 and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots.)
 MAR 7:5 And the Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?"
 MAR 7:6 And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.
 MAR 7:7 'But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.'
 MAR 7:8 "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."
 MAR 7:9 He was also saying to them, "You nicely set aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.
 MAR 7:10 "For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death';
 MAR 7:11 but you say, ' If a man says to his father or his mother, anything of mine you might have been helped by is Corban (that is to say, given to God),'
 MAR 7:12 you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother;
 MAR 7:13 thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that. "

C. This petition does not mean we will never need to be helped.

- Our circumstances can change for a variety of reasons.
- Some of the things that can change our circumstances are - health, storms, floods, fire, accidents, death, loss of employment, investments, devaluation of currency, war, persecutions, etc.

1. Jesus taught the poor will always be with us (Matt. 26:11), and poverty can be the lot of even a Christian.

MAT 26:11 "For the poor you have with you always; but you do not always have Me.

- a. This was not affirmed to make us indifferent to the poor.
- b. It was affirmed because the woman had done a great thing for Jesus.
- c. They would have many occasions to show kindness to the poor, but few occasions to personally help Jesus.

2. The scriptures teach we must help the poor and helpless. (Psa. 41:1; Gal. 6:10; Jas. 1:27; 2:14-17; 1 Jn.

3:17, 18).

3. God may provide “our daily bread” (needs) through others.

a. Being assisted by others may teach us the needed lesson of humility.

b. All of us can suffer hard times.

D. We should not be anxious and frustrated if we do not have every thing we want. (1 Tim. 6:6-10).

1TI 6:6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.8 And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.

E. Our focus is laying up treasures in heaven. (Matt. 6:19, 20).

F. God will bless us if we put Him first. (Matt. 6:33; Col. 3:1, 2).

MAT 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

COL 3:1 If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

COL 3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Conclusion.

I. Read Devotional “Give us this day our daily bread” by Cathy Haedge

Lord, I don't think I have ever really worried about daily bread. You have given me an abundance of bread and everything else I need.

When I go to the grocery store, I get lost in all the variety and color and sheer numbers.

I have given away boxes, a roomful of things to Goodwill. They are things I do not need or no longer want, and still I have more than enough. You have allowed me to have things far in excess of daily bread—of what I truly need to live.

And yet I am still hungry.

Sometimes I fear the things I have. They steal my best time and energy by crying for my attention: Buy me! Eat me!

Wear me! Upgrade me!

And so I am hungry, because I am feeding my greed and not my soul.

How much is enough, Lord? How much is too much? What can I live without? I don't want too little, for fear of becoming bitter and anxious. Nor do I need too much, lest I turn complacent and blind to the needs of others.

Give us this day our daily bread.

I need bread to stay alive, but without the Bread of Life, I will never truly live.

Teach me contentment, Jesus. Show me a way of true delight in the things of this earth, without mad cravings to own or control.

Increase my hunger for you and for the things of your Spirit.

May I never desire anything—a tasty meal, a beautiful dress, even a cozy home—unless you are in the desire, helping me to be grateful and generous.

Give us this day our daily bread.

O Jesus, give us yourself!

II. Yes, the petition “Give us this day our daily bread” is full of meaning and one that should be constantly on our hearts and lips.

III. We should have a hunger for physical bread and for the things of God’s Spirit.

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)