

The First Priority in Prayer

Introduction:

Story Exodus 19:1-20:7

"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. Exodus 20:7

The name of God, and the use of God's name is so important, that it is number 3 on Ten Commandments list. The name of God reveals the character of God. His name is not to be disrespected or used as a form of curse. The consequences of abusing the name of God are serious.

Now go to **Matthew 6:5-9**.

5 "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Matthew 6:5-9

➤ **Watch out for pride when you pray** (Matthew 6:5-8)

Jesus rebukes arrogant attitudes and actions that show up in motive and method.
Will need to condense 5-8. back to motive and method

Explain that this does not exclude public prayer, group prayer, out loud, audible prayer.

There is pride at root of hypocritical prayer seeking attention of men.

There is also pride expressed when someone is uses timidity as an excuse not to pray in group. This may stem from a concern about what others will think about you, and that is a form of pride.

➤ **Evoke the place of relationship when you pray** (Matthew 6:9a) "Our Father in heaven"

- "OUR Father..." speaks immediately to family, community. We

Note how many times "Father" is used just in verses 5-9

- "Our FATHER in heaven"
- "Our Father in HEAVEN"

"Heaven" more than a sense of being distant that of being distinct. Heaven as in a place that is above the temporal. Higher than the circumstance. Heaven is separate, yet God is not separated. This speaks to our final home. The place of presence to where we are headed. Home. Heaven is more than a place, it's a Presence. No more death, mourning, crying, pain

the ultimate gated community. Story of gaining entry in Sherryl's community. She had to call guard, put us on list, we had to show ID, issued a pass, etc.

➤ **Bond relationship with petition when your pray** (Matthew 6:9b) “hallowed be your name”

*Note comma between *heaven, hallowed*

In prayer we are instructed to make more than a statement or even confession or acknowledgment. This is certainly more than a formula. And even more than a recognition of holiness. This is a request.

And this request is high/first on God’s priority list.

“Hallowed” holy, consecrated, sanctified, set apart, to respect, to honor, to revere.

“Name” = character, nature

“hallowed be your name” brings us to the character and sovereign nature of God. It is the holiness of God that transforms...

We are to pray requesting that God’s name be made holy, revered.... May I treat your name as holy.

Response:

this is an invitation and a command. Call to obedience in petitioning in prayer “hallowed be your name” Call to intercession for God’s name to be made Holy in self, lost friends, church, community (thus, next part of Lord’s Prayer is: They will be done...” ,

For Lord’s Table:

Read **Matthew 26:26-29**

The body and blood remind us of the cost to bring sinners into the hallowed presence of God.

to be able to enter presence is all of grace.

“Prayer is God’s way of bringing our priorities into line with his. God wills to make great things the consequence of our prayers when our prayers are the consequence of his great purposes. Bring your heart into line with the jealousy of God to hallow his name, and you will pray with great effect. Let your first and all-determined prayer be for the hallowing of God’s name, and your prayers will plug into the power of God’s jealousy” Pier.

ACTS acrostic (may move to bread sermon. Don’t rush in demanding food. illustration of Kelsey training Aria)