



The Sunday Recap is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week. Enjoy!

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON:

Matthew 6:8 "...for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

QUOTE TO CONSIDER:

"We pray not out of discipline, but out of desperation." - Paul Miller

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from our singing, readings, and sermon on Sunday? Why did that stick out to you?
- What often keeps you from prayer?
- How do you envision God as you pray? Far off, busy with other things, slightly annoyed, or perhaps not even present, like you are leaving a message on His voicemail? How might you begin to envision His presence with you as you pray?

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

- Why do we pray?
- Where is God when we pray?
- What can we thank God for today?

SUGGESTED RESOURCE

[*A Praying Life*](#) by Paul Miller

Prayer from St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
seek

where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much

to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

SONGS WE SANG:

[Your Love Never Fails](#) by Jesus Culture

[Come Thou Fount](#) by Page CXVI

[Before the Throne](#) by Sojourn

[Good Good Father](#) by Housefires

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Call to Worship

L: People of God, trust in the Lord, and do good.

C: We trust in you, God. In your presence we find safety and rest.

L: Take delight in the Lord.

C: We delight in you, God. Your love sustains us day to day.

L: The Lord delights in every detail of our lives.

C: Even when we stumble, we do not fall, for we are upheld by your hand, Lord.

L: Be still in the presence of the Lord.

C: We will dwell in your presence, Lord, and wait for you in expectation. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

L: Loving and gracious Father, the more we delve into the depths of our sin, the uglier and more heinous it becomes.

C: If we promise to do better, we lie. If we try to clean ourselves up, we are frauds.

L: If we give because we feel guilty, we are schemers. If we serve to feel good about ourselves, we are self-righteous.

C: If we pray only to get what we want, we are self-serving. If we read your Word so you will be pleased with us, we are manipulators.

L: The selfish motivations of even our best actions condemn us. They are un-holy, un-pleasing, and un-like the One in whose image we are created.

C: Please forgive us and help us to look only to the life-saving, life-changing, life-giving power of your grace and mercy through Your Son Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

SERMON TEXT

Matthew 6:5-15

“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. 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.

“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. Do not be like them, for **your Father** knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:

“**Our Father** in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, **your heavenly Father** will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will **your Father** forgive your trespasses.

SERMON SUMMARY-

Prayer is an expression of our dependence on our loving Father

SERMON NOTES

This is the second of three examples Jesus' warning to “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them”. We said Jesus was describing the overthrow of a religious system for a relationship (with the Father).

This changes both WHY we pray and HOW we pray.

I. Changes WHY we pray-

Under the religious system prayer is used as an expression of MY devotion & MY diligence & MY religious status (which is the exact opposite of what Jesus will say prayer is all about.)

Jesus shows God as OUR FATHER in these verses and his model prayer, a big change from how God has ever been referred to in the past. He is showing that we are *sons* just like Jesus is the Son.

The Fatherhood of God and our relationship with Him is what the entirety of history is moving towards. It is indeed what the entire Bible is all about!

“You sum up the whole of the New Testament teaching in a single phrase, if you speak of it as a revelation of the Fatherhood of the holy Creator. In the same way you sum up the whole NT religion if you describe the knowledge of God as one’s holy Father. If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all” - JI Packer

Now we pray not as those who need to earn anything, but those who can commune with our patient and loving Father who knows all our needs.

II. Changes HOW we pray

As dependent children upon a loving Father who provides we are dependent for:

- a) His Kingdom - for Him to bring His Kingdom ways both within us and in our world
- b) His Provision - for everything that sustains us
- c) His Forgiveness - we know that everyday we need two things- food to sustain our bodies and forgiveness to sustain our souls
- d) His Protection - As sinners who still have desires for sin within us, we need His protection from temptation from without. For we are weak, but He is strong.

SCRIPTURE FOR NEXT WEEK:

Matthew 6:16-18

[16] “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. [17] But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, [18] that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward