

The Everyday and the Eternal  
Matthew 6:11  
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First Baptist Church in Gustine, Texas  
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Intro: Prayer is the life blood of the Christian life. It is an essential for living in God's Kingdom in the midst of this broken world. The last few weeks as we have been looking at the Lord's Prayer here in Matthew 6 we have been asking ourselves the question, how do we pray?

Prayer is something we all know we need and prayer is, for many of us, something we find a struggle to actually do. We get wrapped up in life, we get distracted by so much around us we do not pray, and then we feel guilty about not praying and convince ourselves we don't know how to pray or are just too busy to actually do it. If prayer is essential, if it is the life blood of the Christian life, and one of the main ways God works in this world then we must be men and women of prayer. We must pray.

Jesus here in Matthew 6 is helping us learn how to pray. He is showing us broad strokes of the emphasis our prayers should consist of, how we should see prayer and what we should pray for when we come to the throne of grace.

When we pray, we pray then like this, our Father in heaven hallowed be your name. This is a reminder we are not alone, we pray together as a family of faith, as the church, as brothers and sisters seeking Jesus together. And, when we pray together we are praying to our Father in heaven, the creator and sustainer of the universe, the sovereign King who is near and with us every moment. He loves us, seeks our good, and He is sovereign.

The first three requests show us our first priority in prayer is glorifying God and asking for His glory, power, love, and mercy to be shown. We ask for Him to reveal Himself in our lives and the world around us. Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. When we pray God focused and centered prayers we recognize who is on the throne, and we recognize the great need of the world. We recognize what we need most, what our situations need most, is for God to show His glory, for God's Kingdom to advance, and for God's will to be done. We need God to intervene, we need God to help us, strengthen us, work in this moment, and this concern. Sometimes we come to God in prayer and we just talk and lay out concerns, but we don't actually pray. Prayer

is asking God to intervene, it is asking God to work and show His holiness and glory, advance His kingdom and accomplish His will. If we what we ask for can be accomplished without God then is it really prayer? Jesus calls us to pray Kingdom advancing prayers. He encourages us to pray to see God's redemption and restoration at work in us and in the world around us.

Jesus begins with God focused requests because this is where our hearts find rest and peace, and this is where we join God in His work in the world. This reminds us these situations, these doubts, questions, concerns, and requests can be laid down at the feet of our Father. It gives us perspective and calls us into prayers that matter for eternity, that change us and the world.

Now, as we turn to verse 11 we see Jesus continuing to teach us to pray by offering another example of a request to be made in order to be a part of God advancing His Kingdom. Let's read Matthew 6:11 and come back and make one main point this morning. Read Matthew 6:11.

Body: 1. *God cares about the every day and the eternal*: The request here moves us from the eternal to the everyday, from the big picture of God's Kingdom advancing to the priority of this day's needs. Jesus begins with this emphasis on seeing the glory of God, sitting in awe of the vastness of the Kingdom of God, knowing God is working to advance His Kingdom, and accomplish His will. It is an emphasis to help us see God on the throne, to taste and see His goodness and glory, to know He is sovereign over every inch of this world. Your Kingdom come, your will be done, these are requests of surrender recognizing God's plans and purposes are for our good.

We are to seek His Kingdom, not our own, His will, not our own. These are eternal in their scope. We are asking God to advance His eternal Kingdom in our lives, in this situation, in our community. We look forward to the completion of this Kingdom and in the power of it to transform this moment, to give us hope, peace, and joy in this trial. The first three requests were requests to see God move. They are prayers dealing with eternal issues of the Kingdom of God advancing and the will of God being accomplished. They were God focused, big picture type prayers. These first three requests expand the horizon of our prayers, help us to see we are not the center, our first concern is the glory of God and the advance of His Kingdom. They help us see the world and our lives in the right perspective.

If all we had were these first three requests we would think prayer is just concerned with the big picture issues, that the only thing God cares about are the

big things measured by us and the world. But, notice how specific this request we looked at here in verse 11 is and how mundane in the scheme of life.

Jesus moves from Kingdom of God prayers, prayers focusing our hearts on the work of God in us and around the world, requests to help us trust His plan and purpose to being able to see His glory and grace in asking God for three square meals today. Is prayer about expanding our views and being a part of God's Kingdom advancing and His will being fulfilled? Yes! Does He do this advancing and fulfilling through the mundane and ordinary moments of our lives? Yes!

God cares about the everyday as well as the eternal and it is through the everyday that we see the eternal. It is through the ordinary moments where we see God's Kingdom come, His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. God cares about our everyday concerns. God cares about the minute details of our life. God cares about our basic needs. God cares about our daily bread. God cares about that which seems trivial to the world. God is not just concerned with what we consider the big things and prayer is not just about praying for eternal things or big things to happen, prayer is about every inch of our lives being laid at the feet of Jesus and every moment of our day, every need we have being brought to the King of the universe. Give us this day our daily bread is a prayer for the provision of God, for the meeting of our most basic needs.

We don't have to pray many prayers like this today with our full fridges and cupboards. Many of us don't wonder where our next meal is coming from. Most of us have the means to at least have something on the table. This prayer was a necessity for the listeners of Jesus' day. Many of them truly lived from day to day not knowing where the next meal would come from, not sure they would have bread for the next day. This prayer is of great physical concern for this time. This is a request for God to provide what one needs for the day, to provide the basic necessities of one's life. Pay was so low in these days there were no savings, no investing, you were paid enough to buy food for that day or you were dependent on your crops and one failure could spell disaster. It was a day of literally living from day to day. Most of us don't live in this kind of precarious situation, though many do. We don't have to wake up worrying about a meal today, but many do.

What we see in his request is the truth that God cares about the mundane, the necessary parts of our life, down to what we eat and the provisions needed for this day, this moment. God cares about the everyday. He cares about your actual struggle in this moment. If all we had were the first three requests of hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done we would have this notion of

prayer as just about God doing what the world sees as big things, God concerned only about what the world thinks makes a difference, but remember God is our Father in heaven. He is transcendent and He is near. He is sovereign and He is good. He is holy and He is loving. God is working for His glory and He is doing so by working in even the everyday necessities of our lives.

Give us this day our daily bread is a prayer for God to provide, for God to show His faithfulness in the everyday necessities. We pray for God's Kingdom to come and when we do we are also praying for God to provide our basic needs, for God to show His glory in His faithfulness and provision. God is our provider. God is the one who meets our daily needs. God is the one who gives us this day our daily bread.

One of the important things Jesus does here in placing this request behind the requests of your kingdom come, your will be done is help us see where these daily gifts of grace and provision come from. These are gifts from God, gifts of His grace. Good and perfect gifts from our heavenly Father and when we recognize His holiness, see His Kingdom and follow His will we see every good and perfect gift comes from Him.

When we begin with the gift we forget it is from His hand and we can make the gift our god. Jesus begins with focusing our hearts on God and His glory, God and His Kingdom because it is in recognizing this priority that we focus our hearts best on what we need and find the peace in knowing the one who provides. Give us this day our daily bread is a prayer recognizing the one who meets our needs from the most basic, everyday needs, to the ones that seem far too big and impossible. God is our Father and our Father meets our needs, our Father is faithful in all things.

When we pray we bring every request and every need to God. Sometimes, we think God doesn't care about the little details of our life, but that is far from true. Yes, God wants us to be aware of the way He is working in the world, to pray for His Kingdom come, His will be done on earth as it is in heaven, He wants us to be about the business of seeing this Kingdom advance, but how this Kingdom advances is in many ways not the way we think. The most effective advancing of God's Kingdom doesn't happen from big stages, books, movies, or cultural artifacts. It happens in the everyday lives of the people of God as they love God and neighbor where God has placed them with the gifts of His grace He has given them.

When we pray for our daily bread to be provided we are advancing God's Kingdom because we are recognizing where our bread comes from. We are surrendering even the smallest details of our life to Him.

Faithfulness to Jesus isn't just about big Kingdom things, in fact the real Kingdom of God activities are baking the daily bread and loving our family, living faithfully in our homes, at our jobs, at the baseball field, and in the grocery store. This prayer for our needs to be met, for God to involve Himself in the small details of our life are Kingdom prayers too. God cares about the everyday and the eternal because the everyday is a part of the eternal. Every moment is a divine moment, a moment where God's Kingdom can come and His will be done. Pray that way. Pray as if the provision of the daily bread is a gift of God's grace to help you love Him and love others well to advance the Kingdom of God.

Conclusion: Give us this day our daily bread. We trust you Father to meet our needs, to help us, and provide for us that we might show your love and advance your Kingdom while doing your will.