

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expository Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 11- Luke 11:1-13** 210- Lord, Teach Us to Pray- Part 3

July 14, 2013

Luke 11:1-13

1 It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples."

2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.

3 'Give us each day our daily bread.

4 'And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.'"

5 Then He said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves;

6 for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him';

7 and from inside he answers and says, '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*.'

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.

9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

10 For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.

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?

12 Or *if* he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he?

13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

To the Glory of God

What an unspeakable and undeserved privilege it is to stand in this pulpit again and look out on you- the flock that the great Shepherd has called me to feed. I don't know how long the Lord will give me to live- but I do know that as long as I live- I want to be instrumental in your life to awaken within you a sense of the greatness and the majesty and the unspeakable beauty of God.

The purpose of preaching is that by faithfully expositing the inerrant Truth of Scripture to you week after week- your eyes- that have been covered by satan will be *unveiled* and that your heart that has become hard through the deceitfulness of sin will be *softened* and that your mind which has been blinded by the devil will *understand* and that your reasoning that has been darkened by false and untrue things will *see the light*.

And the result of that will be that once your eyes are unveiled and once your heart has been softened and once your mind understands and once your reasoning is enlightened- that you will behold the very Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ and based upon that infinitely superior vision of Jesus- you will be changed. And you will be changed from one realm of glory to the next- as directed by the Lord- Who is the Spirit. The songwriter put it like this:

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
Look Full in His Wonderful Face
And the Things of Earth Will Grow Strangely Dim
In the Light of His Glory and Grace

And that is why I preach the way I preach and that is why I emphasize preaching over anything else that I do. Without knowing and understanding Truth- nothing else matters. Without Truth- you have nothing that you can count on- including what people call, "Love". Therefore Truth trumps everything else- including life itself and that is exactly why the modern Church is experiencing such turmoil and the

people's lives have become so dysfunctional and ungodly and worldly- they have left off their pursuit of Eternal Divine Truth to develop other things and that effort has proven to be an unmitigated disaster.

Now we are going to have sweet and precious times of fellowship in the future as we build the new building in the back and we are able to spend more time together- and I am looking forward to that and of having Bible Studies after lunch so that those who drive so far will be able to join in with us. But the fellowship that we have together right now- at the Feet of Jesus- here in His Word- is absolutely wonderful as we sit week after week listening to Jesus Teach and learning directly from His Word.

Being a Pastor is an amazing thing. It is different than anything else I have ever done. I receive more praise and more criticism than anyone in this room and that is part of the package. So what you have to understand is that the great Work that God is doing in my own soul and the work He is doing in my Marriage and in my Ministry are almost indistinguishable- because sooner or later- all sin is relational. I may not be as successful as some of you would like for me to be- but I assure you that I hear and read everything you say to me and I am endeavoring to be what I am supposed to be. But I know that I cannot snap my fingers and instantly arrive at full maturity and so I constantly beg God to be good to me to reveal sin in my life so that I may see it and hate it and turn from it.

You need to know that I am more hungry for God today than I have been at any time in my 42 year walk with God. I am more thirsty for Righteousness. My soul is more ablaze with more exuberance and more passion to know and to love and to enjoy Jesus Christ than at any time I can remember.

Like most of you- I am bewildered and amazed and angry and frightened at what I see happening to my culture and my country that I love and I am not happy at the way we are going.

But I believe now more than every that since I only have this much time and this much money and this much ability that I can do the greatest amount of Good by parking my rear end in the chair and keeping my nose in the Book and my face on the ground to study and to read and to think and to seek God and to appeal to God the Holy Spirit to grant to me solid, Biblical, and, hopefully, helpful sermons and Bible

Studies and Teachings and Radio Broadcasts that will feed your soul and equip you to walk this world in white.

I desire to be a better man; a more loving and caring husband; a better father; a better son; a better brother and a better pastor than ever before and I beg you to pray with me and for me as I set out to do that. Of course sin is the reason why I am not a better husband or father or pastor and I would name my most besetting sins as being selfishness and immaturity. Perhaps you could name others. But all of these sins have been most often manifest- not here in this pulpit- but at home- with my wife and my own children.

Lately, God has retaught me some very basic strategies for putting to death the uprisings of sin in my own heart. And time will tell and Rhonda will tell, and you will tell, whether the progress I have made is deep and durable, or not. I pray that it is. And what God is doing in me and through me will, no doubt, weave its way into messages and writings in the months and years to come- and I pray they will be of benefit to your own soul and your relationships—whether single or married.

1,000 years before Jesus was born- King David wrote this in **Psalm 9:10:**

And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, For You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

...so the better we know and understand the Name of God- the more we will trust Him. One of the most important changes in my life in going from a born again man of the Pentecostal persuasion to a born again man of the Reformed persuasion- is my understanding and respect and admiration of God.

As of June 25th- I have been saved for 42 years now- and I have never met the first person who would disagree with me that God is Sovereign. Everybody says that they believe that God is Sovereign- even though I think that when people say that they are most often relegating their notion of Sovereignty to the event of Creation rather than extend it to Salvation or Suffering or Sickness or Disappointments or Tragedies.

But the Bible clearly and repeatedly declares a very troubling concept and that is that God is absolutely Sovereign over everything- all

the time. And that phrase is very easy to say but the concept that God is Sovereign is very profound when you actually put it into practice- and it affects everything else that you believe and know and understand.

You see to say that God is absolutely Sovereign over everything all the time goes way beyond God blessing you with that new car or giving you a raise on your job or sending someone to mow your yard. It also means that God was completely in charge of the little girl who broke her neck and the little boy who was repeatedly raped by his evil uncle for 12 years and it involves the death of your child and the brain cancer that your husband just contracted and it means that God is in total control when circumstances develop where our individual liberties and freedoms have been lost and Christianity then becomes illegal in a nation which allows evil men to persecute you because of your faith in Christ and when they imprison you and take your business from you and confiscate your bank account.

And so I have come to realize that understanding Who God is- in all the particularities of His Nature and Character during very hard times is absolutely critical to me being able to endure to the end without losing hope and it is that which allows me to hope without wavering and it is that which gives me comfort in the midst of the storm.

And while you can get general and large concepts of God from rightly observing Creation- the only place to go to get very specific and detailed information about God's Character and Nature is from the Holy Bible and to study and learn what God has revealed about Himself.

And that makes God to be bigger and more important than anything else and it is this large and all- encompassing vision of God that gives you the fuel to keep going; it is what allows you to persevere; it is what empowers you to press on because the more we understand God- the more we can trust him. And the more we put our faith and hope and trust in God- the more risks we will take for the sake of His Glory. And the more risks we are willing to take for the sake of His Glory- the more bold we will be in our witness and the less dependent we will be on ourselves and the strength of our own hands and the material comforts that we have accumulated and the more readily we will volunteer for active duty on the frontiers of Gospel Ministry.

I think that people who don't do much for God's Glory- except come to Church and listen- haven't really heard what I am saying and they haven't really seen Jesus. Because if you really see Jesus- high and lifted up- you will become so captivated by the Glory of the risen Lord- then you will be ready to serve and so ready to volunteer; and you will see so much that needs to be done- so many people to reach- so many opportunities to minister that it will consume you. Your struggle will not be to do something- it will be that there is so much that you see to do- it will overwhelm you.

I do not believe that Jesus stayed on the Cross because He had to or because He thought it was His duty to do so. I believe that He endured the Cross primarily because of the unspeakable Joy that He saw that was before Him. And I think that same logic should apply to us. And knowing God and His Name and His Reputation and His Nature and Character does that to you.

Many times when people say that they are going to "put God first" in their life- the implication is that they come "second". And I think that is a faulty logic. For me to put God first does not mean that I hurry to get the "God things" done as early or as fast as possible so then I'm free to do the "me things". No, to put God "first"- gives me the honor and privilege of being completely consumed with God and His Agenda and His Ways and His Will to His Glory- to the point where I no longer even enter into the picture at all. And that is what Paul meant when he said that his life was "hid with Christ".

And what happens when that occurs is that my wants and my desires have been utterly overshadowed and made to be irrelevant by what Augustine said was, "an infinitely superior Sovereign Joy" in the Beauty and the Importance and the Value of the Person and finished Work of the Lord Jesus Christ. And I'm telling you today that all this comes by knowing and by "hallowing" God's Name.

And that is why I am convinced that the next great revival and the next great missionary movement in the earth will not begin with a new focus on the world or even the suffering people of the world- but with a new vision of *God* that totally consumes us and that compels us to go and to tell and to baptize and to teach and to serve and to sacrifice. Therefore- what is more important than all other preparations for personal revival and missionary work- is that we have an absolutely unshakable confidence in the Sovereignty of God. And part of that

effort is that we re-discover God in the pages of the Bible and that we relish and enjoy what we find and that what we discover transforms us.

I think of the Biblical Revelation of God as being the tip of an iceberg floating in an ocean of mystery. 9/10 of God's Majesty lies beneath the surface of Revelation. And the tip of the iceberg revealed in Scripture is so high that it extends out of sight into the clouds beyond anyone's ability to comprehend it fully. Only 1/10 of God's Character is given to us in this age for our contemplation, and even this is so big and so profound that we will never exhaust its riches.

For example- God said to Moses in **Exodus 3:14**:

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

So the most fundamental primary thing that can be said about God is that "*He Is*". And the most staggering thing to our imagination is that God never had a beginning. God simply "is"- from all eternity. God is not going to "be" at some point in the future and God is not Someone Who "was" back in the day- God is. Later on God told Moses in **Exodus 33:19**:

I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."

... and the word, "compassion" here can be understood as "mercy". So at the heart of God's Name is the reality of His Own Individual Sovereign Freedom. So God makes His choices on the basis of His Own infinite Wisdom. God is absolutely "Self- Determined" and He absolutely has "Free Will" and He is the only Being in the Universe that is like that.

And what I am trying to say this morning is that the beauty of Reformed Theology is that it teaches that this is not just neat information that sounds cool or that sounds religious- but this knowledge of God's Own Sovereignty is immensely practical to us in our everyday lives. In fact- these are the things that collectively make up what it means for us to Hallow His Name.

Another time God said to Moses in **Exodus 6:3**:

I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, but *by My name, LORD* , I did not make Myself known to them.

So not only does God exist in Sovereign Freedom- God is also infinite in Power so that He cannot ever be thwarted or defeated in any of His Free Choices. And that means that God's Omnipotence is the guarantee of His Faithfulness.

When God came down a second time to Mount Sinai in **Exodus 34:6&7**- the first thing He did was to declare His Name:

6 Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD , the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;

7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

So we learn on Mount Sinai that the Existence and the Freedom and the Omnipotence of God stand in the service of His Mercy and His Love. And for this- we "hallow" His Name.

God said to the Apostle John in **The Book of the Revelation 21:6**,

... It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end...

And that means that every single human being- great or small- educated or uneducated- rich or poor- male or female- tall or short- young or old- had his beginning in God- but even more importantly- each one will also have his end in God. God is *everybody's* Omega- not just believers. Nobody escapes having to stand before God on that day to give an account of the things done in his body- whether that is good or bad. We will *all* meet God- either as a perfectly merciful Fountain of Life or as a perfectly Righteous Lake of Fire and every single account will be settled either on the Cross or in hell. And that shakes us and causes us to tremble and so we "hallow" God's Name.

To Isaiah the Lord says in **Isaiah 57:15**-

For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell *on* a high and holy place, And *also* with the contrite and lowly

of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.

And that means that God is Holy. He is separate and distinct and different from anything that has been made. Go is unique and above and separate from all that is common and ordinary- because He is only extraordinary. No one is like God. No one could be. The only time that God became a part of His Own Creation was when He took on flesh and became Man as Jesus Christ.

Now it is true that coins and stamps and diamonds and paintings are valuable in direct proportion to how rare they are. And if they are one of a kind- then we separate them from the run of the mill coins and stamps and diamonds and put them in some out of the way place to keep them safe and preserved. God inhabits a place and position that is infinitely superior to our ordinary world. And the wonder of the Gospel is that in Christ- God comes near to dwell with crushed and humble saints. And knowing this- causes us to hallow His Name.

Finally, God declares again on Mount Sinai in **Exodus 34:14**:

... you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD , whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God —

God has created us to know Him and to love Him and to enjoy Him forever- and He feels a Holy Indignation and is highly insulted when our hearts are lured away from Him to love and enjoy other things more than Him or even to the same extent as Him. And He is correct to experience this insult because part of what it means to be God is that He is *entitled* to our worship and devotion. God has earned the *right* to be praised and worshipped. God *deserves* to be loved and adored. Therefore because God is infinitely deserving of this attention- it is sinful and evil and wicked not to give Him the Glory that He is entitled to. And that causes us to hallow His Name.

Our God exists from all eternity; He is the only Being Who is absolutely “free”; God is Omnipotent; He is Merciful; He is the Beginning and End of every person that will ever live; God is Holy; and God is Jealous for our undivided affection. And all of this and a whole lot more is what makes up His “Name”- which is why we are told to “hallow” His Name.

Now in the prayer that Jesus tells us to pray after or in the manner of here in **Luke 11**- the Lord teaches us that the first priority in praying is to ask that our heavenly Father's Name be hallowed. Jesus said in **Luke 11:2**:

... When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name...

Notice that this is a “petition” or a “request”. This is not a *declaration* (as I thought it was for many years). It is actually a *request* that we make to God that in, by, and through all of the particularities of His Character and Nature- that God will sovereignly see to it that His Own Name is “hallowed”.

This is like the missionary text in **Matthew 9:38** where Jesus tells us to pray to the Lord of the harvest that He would send out laborers into His Own Harvest.

It never ceases to amaze me that we- the laborers- should be instructed by the Owner of the farm to ask the Owner of the farm- Who knows the harvest and cares for the harvest much better than we do- that He would add on more farm hands. This is the great mystery of prayer in general that we have been studying on Wednesday Evenings now for quite some time. God instructs us to pray about what God has already told us He is going to do. So we are to ask God to do what God has already determined in His absolute Freedom and Omnipotence that He is going to do. We pray God's Will.

And in fact- this is the only kind of prayer that God answers- the prayers that is His Will. And so every other prayer about any other subject is off base and is praying amiss. And we have also learned that one of the main reasons why God tarries and does not answer our prayers is because we are praying out of our own self- interests and not in accord with His Will- which is revealed in His Word. So God does not answer our prayers at times and then He commands us to continue to ask- so that the end result is that we are transformed over time into humble and obedient bond-slaves which only ask and seek after the Will of God.

But isn't this the same thing we have here in this Prayer in **Luke 11**? Here Jesus is telling us to ask God- Who is infinitely jealous for the Honor of His Own Name- without any help or assistance from us- to see

to it that His Name is “hallowed” and honored. And this is amazing but it teaches us two very important things:

- ✓ Prayer does not move God to do things that He is already disinclined to do. Prayer is not about trying to change God’s Mind or to twist God’s Arm until He gives in. Somehow we must come to know that God’s primary Passion is to allow and to cause and to raise up and to cast down so that His Own Name will be hallowed. Nothing is higher on God's priority list.
- ✓ Prayer is God's Way of bringing *our* priorities and desires into alignment with His. God wills to make great things the consequence of our prayers when our prayers are the consequence of His great Purposes.

So our job in prayer is to bring our hearts and minds along with our wants and desires and passions into alignment with the jealousy of God to hallow His Own Name. And you will find your prayers answered and having great effect. So let your first and your all-determining prayers be focused on the hallowing of God's glorious Name and Reputation- and your prayers will plug into the Omnipotent Power of God's Jealousy.

But now we must explore the question, “*What does the word "hallow" mean?*” Exactly what are we asking God to do- when we ask Him to see to it that His Own Name is hallowed?

In its basic sense- the word "hallow" means: *to sanctify*. The very same Greek word stands behind both English words- “hallow” and “sanctify”. So Jesus is really telling us to pray,

Father- Let Your Name be Sanctified.

Now the concept of “sanctify” can mean either: *to make something holy* or *to treat something as already being holy*. When God sanctifies us- it means that He makes us to be holy or set aside or separate and called out for His use. But we cannot make God to be Holy- we don’t have that kind of power and God already is Holy. So when we sanctify God- it means that we treat God as already being holy.

So Jesus is actually teaching us to pray here that God would do whatever He sees fit to cause or to make His great Name to be treated as already being holy. And then our question becomes,

Just What Does it Mean to Treat God as Already Being Holy?

What exactly are we asking God to do- when we pray that He cause His Own Name to be treated as Holy?

And to answer this important question- I want to allow the Scriptures to interpret the Scriptures and so I found four other places in the Bible where this word "hallow" or "sanctify" or "treat as holy" is used in relation to God. And each of these passages will give us an idea of what it means to ask God to hallow the Name of God.

1. Numbers 20:12

Numbers 20:12

But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.”

During the wilderness wandering of the people of Israel- there was a time when they had no water. And the people grumbled against Moses. But God tells Moses to “speak” to the rock and to bring forth water for the people. But Moses' spirit is bitter, and in his angry frustration- he strikes the rock twice with his rod.

And interestingly- the water still flows out- but so does the stinging Word of God to Moses:

... Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.

Now notice very carefully God's Words:

... you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel...

... these Words give us our first answer to the question,

What Does it Mean to Sanctify or to “Hallow” the Name of God?

Well, here it means to believe God. So the first way that we have to treat God as though He were already holy is to trust what He says. Instead of a peaceful confidence in the Power of God to respond to a mere word- Moses was bitter and impulsive. And we learn from this that God is not hallowed when we do not have a spirit of settled confidence and peace in His Word.

The Apostle John said in **1John 5:10**

The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.

When you make somebody a liar- you profane that person's name or his reputation or his character and nature. And this is the opposite of treating the person as though he were already holy. So not trusting God is the exact opposite of “hallowing” His Name. So the first thing that we mean, then, when we pray for God to cause His Own Name to be “hallowed” is that God would cause His people to *believe* and trust Him and what He has said.

"Hallowed be Your Name"= "I Trust in Your Word."

2. Isaiah 8:12&13

Isaiah 8:12&13

12 “You are not to say, ‘*It is a conspiracy!*’ In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy, And you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of *it*.

13 “It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, And He shall be your dread.

Here God speaks to the Prophet Isaiah and warns him not to be like the people of Israel.

“You are not to say, ‘*It is a conspiracy!*’ In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy, And you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of *it*.

And then God tells Isaiah just Who he should be afraid of:

“It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, And He shall be your dread.

So how do you “hallow” God according to this text? You “hallow” Him by *not* fearing what Man fears- but that you fear God. And very practically- this means that when God commands you to take your stand for Him in a hostile situation- you fear displeasing God more than you fear the hostility of Man.

Hallowed be Your Name = May I Fear You More Than Man

So don't fear losing your house or your wife or your children or your bank account or your prestige in the service of the Lord! Instead, fear the prospect of saying “no” to God. God will be honored and glorified in all your worldly losses when you obey him. But when you set yourself to oppose His Will- out of concern what Man will think of you- no one can compensate for the eternal consequences of that.

So when we pray, "Hallowed be Your Name," we are actually praying, *"Father, let your Name and Your Reputation and Your Character and Your Nature be feared."* Or, more even more precise- we are to pray, *"Father, cause Your people to have such a high view of You and to respect and value You- that it is a much more dreadful thing to lose Your Approval than to lose anything this world can offer- up to and including our own lives."*

3. Leviticus 22:31&32

Leviticus 22:31&32

31 “So you shall keep My commandments, and do them; I am the LORD .

32 “You shall not profane My holy name, but I will be sanctified among the sons of Israel; I am the LORD who sanctifies you,

So we “hallow” the Name of God when we keep His Commandments. And that means that we profane the Name of God when we break His Commandments. So when we pray, "Father, let your

Name be hallowed," we are actually praying, "*Father, cause Your Commandments to be obeyed.*" Or "*Father do in us what needs to be done so that we will be found obedient to Your Commandments*"

"Hallowed be Your Name" = "May I Obey Your Commandments."

4. Leviticus 10:3

Leviticus 10:3

Then Moses said to Aaron, "It is what the LORD spoke, saying, 'By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored.'" So Aaron, therefore, kept silent.

Now this text seems to say that God's showing Himself holy and His being glorified are virtually the same thing. So when we pray, "*Hallowed be Your Name,*" we are actually praying, "*Glorified be Your Name.*"

So let's sum up what we've seen so far. "Hallowed be Your Name" is a request and not a declaration. We are not saying, "*Lord, Your Name is hallowed!*" We are requesting, "*Lord, cause Your Name to be hallowed!*" Or as we have seen:

- ✓ Cause your Word to be *believed*
- ✓ Cause Your Displeasure to be *feared*
- ✓ Cause Your Commandments to be *obeyed*
- ✓ Cause Yourself to be *glorified*

So we are hallowing the Name of God when we trust Him; revere Him; obey Him; and glorify Him- and not just as we repeat those words.

So the big question remaining is,

For Whom are we Praying when we Pray, "Father, hallowed be Your Name"?

Whose heart are we asking God to change when we pray, "Father, cause their heart to believe you and fear you and obey you and glorify you"? If we take our clue from the next two requests in this model for prayer- I think we will hear two answers. Look with me again at **Luke**

11:2&3:

Luke 11:2&3

2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.

3 'Give us each day our daily bread.

Now the expanded version of this prayer over in **Matthew 6** tells us that Jesus also included a phrase,

Your Will be done in earth as it is in Heaven”

... right after, “Your Kingdome come” and so what we see is that one answer is that we are praying for ourselves and the other answer is that we are praying for the spread of the Gospel to the unreached peoples of the world.

So after teaching us to pray that God's Name be hallowed- Jesus then teaches us to pray,

"May God's Kingdom come and May God’s Will be done on the earth
as it is in Heaven."

Now each of these requests has both a personal and a worldwide dimension. And to understand this- please turn with me to read **Matthew 6:25-34:**

25 "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

26 Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?

27 And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?

28 And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,

29 yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.

30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith!

31 Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?'

32 For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

34 "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Here Jesus commands us to seek God's Kingdom first rather than seeking food and clothing. In other words- we are to seek to let God be the Ruler and the King in our lives now. And we are also acknowledging that His Kingdom is a present reality wherever He rules as King.

So when we pray, "Father, let Your kingdom come," we should mean, "Father, rule in my life. Be my King. Get the victory over my anxiety about life's necessities." This is the *personal* dimension of the coming of the Kingdom.

But just as important as the personal dimension is the worldwide dimension. In **Luke 22:18**- Jesus said to His disciples at the Last Supper:

for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes."

In other words the "coming" of God's Kingdom is not only a present spiritual experience but also a future historical event. It refers to the time when the King will come in glory with His angels in flaming fire- when He gathers His elect from the four winds and establishes His Kingdom on the earth.

Jesus described it in **Matthew 13:41–43** like this:

41 The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness,

42 and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then **THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN** in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

So from a *worldwide* perspective- when we pray, "Your Kingdom come," we are asking God to draw history to a close and to establish His Kingdom on the earth. And who will be a part of this kingdom? Listen to the glimpse of it which John describes in **The Revelation 5:9&10**,

9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

10 You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

When God's Kingdom comes that we are praying for in this prayer- it will be composed of a ransomed people that Christ has Personally redeemed from every tribe and tongue and people and nation on the earth. Therefore, when we pray, "Your Kingdom come," we are actually praying that God would extend His mighty Arm to complete the purpose of world missions- namely, the in-gathering of the redeemed from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

So the answer to the question,

For whom are we praying when we pray, "Hallowed be thy name,"

... is clear. We are praying not only for *ourselves*- but also for the unreached tribes and tongues and peoples and nations of the world. God's Purpose and Passion is to be hallowed: believed; feared; obeyed; and glorified by the ransomed in all the people groups of the earth.

And the same thing turns up when we focus on the third request in this model of prayer:

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

On the personal level that must mean, "*Father, please cause me to obey Your Will in the same way and with the same degree of urgency that the angels obey it in Heaven.*" It means that we are asking God to help us to do God's Will flawlessly and to do it with the same fervency

and undivided devotion that they have. It is to ask God to make our obedience a heavenly obedience."

But on the *worldwide* level the meaning is even greater. In heaven there is nothing but obedience to the Will of God. So when we pray, "Your Will be done on earth as it is in heaven," we are praying that the earth would be filled only with people who do the Will of God the way the angels do it in heaven.

In other words, we are praying for God to either save the lost or to remove them and that God's Kingdom will come. We are praying that sin and rebellion and wickedness will cease and that the earth will be filled with the Knowledge of the Glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (**Habakkuk 2:14**).

We are praying that the cause of world missions would so prosper in our day and that the Word of God will be so successful that all the ransomed from every tribe and tongue and people and nation would be reached and gathered in, and the King would come.

So for whom are we praying when we pray, "Hallowed by Your Name"? We are praying for the unreached peoples of the earth and for ourselves that God would use us to reach them.

Now let me close with three brief implications for us.

1. Make God's Top Priority Your Top Priority

First, since the first three petitions of this model prayer give us the priority of Christ's Heart, we should learn that God's top priority is the hallowing of God's Name in all the earth. And if this is God's top priority- it should be our top priority as well—that God be believed, feared, obeyed, and glorified by a ransomed people from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. The consummation of all our joy in God will be attained when his name is hallowed in all the earth.

2. Pray Those Priorities into Reality

Second, we learn that prayer is the root of true mission advance. Jesus teaches us His Priorities in the form of a prayer because He intends us to pray those Priorities into reality. If the kingdom comes in our lifetime- it will be because the Church of Jesus Christ around the world has begun to take seriously this model prayer. It will be because

we have recognized that the requests, "Hallowed be Your Name," and, "Send forth laborers into Your harvest," are actually the same prayer, and are the direct Command of the Lord Jesus. If we will see souls saved and God's Glory on the earth- it will be because those Sovereign Acts of God have been supported by a movement of concerted prayer, whose hallmark is, "Hallowed be thy name *in all the earth!*"

3. Seek to Let This Prayer Be Answered *in Your Life*

The final implication emerges when we consider that the evangelization of the world is not yet done. God's purpose to call out a ransomed bride from every tribe and tongue and people and nation is not yet fulfilled.

Earlier in this Service- we brought our gifts for world missions that we bring every month. Let me try to put that in perspective for you. As of this day- there are 20,000 different "people groups" in the world of which 12,000 that are as yet unreached with the Gospel. These are groups that are distinct enough in their culture that they cannot be reached by near neighbor evangelism, and have to be reached by cross cultural missionaries.

But suppose you are a real skeptic about these numbers. Just consider the more conservative statistics of *The World Christian Encyclopedia* of 2008. This resource says that there are 432 major ethno-linguistic groups in the world. Of these 81 or 19% have populations in which fewer than 1% claim any association with Christianity at all. These 81 groups make up 1.7 billion people—about a third of the world's population.

Of these 81 groups, 43 are listed in the encyclopedia as having 0.00% Christians. These 81 groups speak 220 different languages of which only 54 have any version of the Holy Scriptures. So even if you view the world in terms of 432 large ethno-linguistic groups instead of 20,000 people groups- the Commission of our Lord and the Purpose of His prayer is not finished by a long shot.

From which I draw out this charge for our Church. If we aim to be obedient to the Lord- we must seek to let this prayer be answered in our *own* lives. We must hallow God's Name more deeply. We must believe and fear and obey and glorify His Name with new intensity. We must be willing ourselves to be busy in the Work of the Lord. We must simplify

our lives to free time and money for the last decades of our lives for the effort to know and to love and to enjoy God ourselves and to sow seed and spread the Gospel as far and as wide and as deep as we can.

So as many others in the modern Church are seeking ways to relax and lay back and to play games and to slow down and enjoy life- let us redouble our efforts in the great war against sin, worldliness and rebellion to God's Will. I do not believe that as we stand before the Lord on that day- absolutely exhausted- having given our all to the Cause of Jesus Christ- that as we behold Him in His Glory that any of us will feel cheated because we didn't play enough or that we didn't ease through life but we will be happy on that day that we expended ourselves in a Cause that was more important than our own lives.

Dear friends- let us pray and labor to make The Covenant of Peace Church a boot camp and a base of operations and a recruitment center for Gospel Ministry both here and around the world and let us become so captivated by the Love and the Majesty and the Beauty and The Glory of God that nothing this world possesses can rob us of hearing those Words on that day,

“Well done, good and faithful servant- You have been faithful over a few things- I will make you ruler over many things- enter into the Joy of Your Lord”

Let's pray