

**Sermon Title: Give Us this Day**

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Scripture Reference: **Matthew 6:11**Thesis: **After concluding a total focus on God, Jesus now teaches us to turn to a focus on our needs;**Purpose: **We will learn today how to pray for our needs within the will of God.**

Key Word: "God's Provision"

Key Points:       #1 Provision Comes after Praise  
                       #2 Provision Comes after Petition  
                       #3 Provision Comes after Perfection

## I) Introduction:

Scripture Reading is: **Matthew 6:11**

## A) The Setting:

- 1) **We are continuing our study on prayer by focusing on the disciples model prayer that Jesus gave His disciples when they asked Him "Teach us to pray . . ." (Luke 11:1)**
  - (a) We know it as the Lord's Prayer and we recite it every week.
  - (b) But, I really don't think this is what Jesus wanted because for many it has become vain repetition which is exactly what Jesus warned His disciples not to do in **Matthew 6:7.**
- 2) **For three weeks now we have been plunging the depths of this model prayer.**
  - (a) During our study I hope we have seen that there is so much more to this prayer than we had ever imagined . . .
  - (b) Our text today is the next phrase in the disciple's prayer; which we will get to in a few moments.
- 3) **This prayer was intended to be a model for how to pray; not a prayer given to recite from memory.**
  - (a) Think about it; do you think God wants us to mouth through words that have little depth of meaning to us?
  - (b) Does God want us to just tell Him what we desire Him to do?
  - (c) I bet our prayers sometimes just sound like noise to God.
- 4) **Or do you think God would prefer that we speak from the heart?**
  - (a) God is more about the intimate, pouring out of our heart and emotions in full force.
  - (b) God wants all our attention, all our effort, all our being to come into focus when we approach His throne.
  - (c) The importance here is not the words of this prayer; but the model for what it represents in teaching us how to pray.
- 5) **Once we established the intent of this prayer; we began our in-depth study of what Jesus wanted.**
  - (a) So far we have looked at God in our Worship as creator,
  - (b) The places where He exists,
  - (c) And His holiness and His will.
- 6) **Pastor John Hamby<sup>1</sup> said in one of his message on this prayer this:**

*"When the Lord responded to the disciples request that He teach them how to pray, He gave them the most perfect and comprehensive outline for prayer ever conceived . . . the prayer consists of seven petitions or requests. **The first three have to do with God and are distinguished by the word "thy."** "Thy name," "Thy kingdom," and "Thy will." The second four petitions, which we begin to examine now, have to do with human well-being and are distinguished by the word "us:" "give us," "forgive us," "deliver us" and "lead us." In these last petitions we turn from praying for God's glory to praying for our needs."*
- 7) **So, let us begin our focus on our needs as we turn to the next line of this illustration of prayer given by Jesus in our scripture reading for today in Matthew 6:11.**

## B) Sermon Prayer

## C) (The Hook)

- 1) **As I began studying these words this week I found myself asking;**
  - (a) What do these words mean?
  - (b) What is Jesus trying to teach us?
  - (c) What are praying these words supposed to do?
  - (d) How will praying these words change us?
  - (e) What things flashed through the minds of the twelve when they heard these words for the very first time?
- 2) **Another Pastor, Steve Malone<sup>2</sup>, who wrestled with these questions pointed out a few snap shots in scripture that he believed would help us clarify;**
  - (a) I would like to share a shortened view of these snap shots from the bible;
  - (b) That I think will be useful in helping us understand what it really means to pray the words; **"Give us this day our daily bread..."**
- 3) **Snap Shot #1;**
  - (a) The first snap shot took place over 3,000 years ago... We read about it in **Exodus 16**.
  - (b) The Israelites had witnessed God's protection as God brought both Pharaoh and the Egyptian empire to its knees.
  - (c) **NOW - after seeing all of that and experiencing God's provision first hand,**
    - (i) After experiencing His protection and deliverance (so powerfully, so clearly and so recently),
    - (ii) You would think that these guys would be willing to follow God anywhere, and would trust Him with anything.
  - (d) But just one month out of Egypt and Moses writes in **Exodus 16**; of the bitterly complaining Israelites for the lack of food and water even stating, **"Oh, that we were back in Egypt," they moaned. "It would have been better if the LORD had killed us there! At least there we had plenty to eat. But now you have brought us into this desert to starve us to death."**
  - (e) **What did God do? just provide manna, bread from heaven and quail for meat.**
    - (i) The catch . . . they were only allowed to gather what they needed for the day except on the day before the Sabbath.
    - (ii) The day before the Sabbath they could gather enough for two days.
    - (iii) If they tried to gather more it would just rot.
  - (f) **The point is that the Israelites were hungry and God delivered and God did this for the next 40 years until they entered the promised land.**
- 4) **Snap Shot #2;**
  - (a) Jesus had been out in the desert for many days; He hadn't eaten and was hungry.
  - (b) The evil one came to him and said, **"If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread..." Jesus answered, 'it is written, Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'**  
(**Matthew 4:2,3**)
- 5) **Snap shot #3;**
  - (a) Jesus was on the far shore of the Sea of Galilee where a great crowd had gathered;
  - (b) They had been there for a long time and were hungry; so, Jesus took 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish and multiplied them and fed 5,000+ people.
  - (c) **Think about it – that's a lot of bread . . .**
    - (i) The people were blown away and thought "hey this guy would make a great king – and he'd do wonders for our grocery bill . . ."
    - (ii) BUT – Jesus wouldn't have any of that and He went up to the mountains to pray.

- (d) WELL – the next morning – Jesus is with the disciples, on the other side of the lake and the people He had fed tracked Him down. And Jesus said to them;  
***"The truth is, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you saw the miraculous sign. But you shouldn't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that I, the Son of Man, can give you. For God the Father has sent me for that very purpose." They replied, "What does God want us to do?" Jesus told them, "This is what God wants you to do: Believe in the one he has sent." They replied, "You must show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What will you do for us? After all, our ancestors ate manna while they journeyed through the wilderness! As the Scriptures say, 'Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus said, "I assure you, Moses didn't give them bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "give us that bread every day of our lives." Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry again. Those who believe in me will never thirst." (John 6:26-35) NLT***
- 6) **Snap Shot #4;**
- (a) Jesus is on that grassy hillside by the Sea of Galilee.
- (b) He's shared with them many things – including this disciples prayer and then he says as recorded in **Matthew 7:7-11**, ***"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"***
- 7) **OKAY – that's 4 snap shots which all took place before Jesus taught the words "Give us this day our daily bread"**
- (a) When we pray to **"Our Father in Heaven"** Thy name be hallowed we are showing our worship.
- (b) When we pray **"Thy kingdom come"** we are praying for guidance.
- (c) When we pray **"Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven"** we are yielding our will for His.
- (d) When we pray, **"Give us this day our daily bread"** we are asking for God's provision.
- 8) **With these words we have turned a major corner in our study of the disciple's prayer.**
- (a) What is it exactly that we are asking when we ask God to provide **"Our daily bread"**?
- (b) Well to answer that we need to look at the principles of provision.

TS: **So, let's start by noticing that in this prayer the . . .**

## II) Body: (Key Points)

### A) Key Point #1: **Provision Comes after Praise**

- 1) **It is interesting that the first real petition in this model prayer only comes after we have first stated our praise.**
- (a) Only after we have affirmed the priority of the kingdom of God and his rule in our lives.
- (b) Only after acknowledging our place before God and our belief in His power.
- 2) **I think that we can only truly pray effectively for ourselves after gaining the perspective that worship and a focus on the kingdom of God will provide.**

- (a) Only then are we ready to ask for the things that we need.
- (b) It is a statement of our faith in God's ability to provide our need.
- 3) **I don't know about you but I have already found a deeper sense of connection to God as I have intentionally made more of an effort to pray in this model.**
  - (a) I am not just talking to you when I preach.
  - (b) I am guilty of many times just launching in to the same list of concerns that I have asking God to do something about it.
- 4) **But I believe that God wants us to come to him in praise and thanksgiving.**
  - (a) Paul said in his letter to the Philippians, "***Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.***" (Philippians 4:6)
  - (b) Notice that we are told to present our requests with thanksgiving . . . when we can thank God before He has answered the prayer we are expressing our faith in God to provide.
  - (c) We are demonstrating our belief that God will answer with our best in mind.
- 5) **Too often we come to God like children tagging along asking for everything we want.**
  - (a) But only after we have offered our praise are we in the proper attitude to ask in accordance with God's will.
  - (b) Our desire needs to match that which God wants for us and acknowledging this ensures we will get the proper answer.

TS: **Next, we see that . . .**

B) Key Point #2: **Provision Comes after Petition**

- 1) **Let's face it, God knows our desires and our needs even before we do . . .**
  - (a) So, why do we need to ask God for what He already knows we need?
  - (b) Because God desires our acknowledgment of a daily dependence on Himself.
- 2) **Hamby<sup>3</sup> noted, when God provided manna in the wilderness for the Israelites, they were commanded to gather only enough food for each day (Exodus 16:16).**
  - (a) If they gathered more than they needed it would spoil over night (Exodus 16:20).
  - (b) God wanted them to realize that they must trust Him to provide for their needs every day.
  - (c) **In the spiritual realm it is just as true that yesterday's strength is absolutely useless to fight today's battles.**
    - (i) Sometimes we Christians need to remember and rely on our experiences with God in the past.
    - (ii) We need a fresh touch of God in our lives everyday.
    - (iii) God never gives us a reservoir of grace in our lives, but expects us to turn to Him everyday for the grace sufficient to meet the challenges of that day.
  - (d) Alan Redpath<sup>4</sup> in his book "Victorious Praying: Studies in the Lord's Prayer" wrote, "***He is not going to give you the grace to do something tremendous tomorrow. He is going to give you grace to be extraordinary in the ordinary circumstances of today.***"
- 3) **God wants us to tell Him our needs not so that He will know; but so that we will know what our true needs are.**
  - (a) God wants us to realize our need and ask for His guidance and help.
  - (b) How else would we know that God was caring for us and meeting our needs?
- 4) **God provides all our prayer requests after we petition according to His will.**
  - (a) Our daily bread is all we need, it is food, clothing, shelter;
  - (b) All of it comes by God's goodness for our need for this day.

TS: **Then we come to our final point . . .**

III) Conclusion (Life Application)

A) Key Point #3: **Provision Comes after Perfection**1) **This is not about our own perfection; but the perfection of our Lord Jesus.**

- (a) Again, from Pastor Hamby<sup>5</sup>, "*The ultimate bread is Jesus. The only bread that can and will satisfy completely and forever is the provision of the Lord Jesus Himself*".
- (b) "***I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.***" (John 6:51) NKJV

2) **Yes, God provided bread for the Israelites in the desert.**

- (a) Jesus provided bread for thousands at two different times to feed the hungry.
- (b) And Jesus taught that God would provide the bread we need;
- (c) But also said that we don't live by bread alone.

3) **When Jesus went to the cross He became the Bread of Life.**

- (a) That is because it is through our belief, our faith in Jesus that we receive our invitation to the marriage supper of the Lamb.
- (b) What is that you ask?
- (c) That is the party that will take place when we all get to heaven; where Jesus takes His bride, the church, home to live with Him forever.
- (d) This is only possible because we are cleansed of sins by God's grace because Jesus died in our place.

B) **What is it that we need daily more than anything else; it is a relationship with Jesus.**

- 1) That is why we need to pray every day?
- 2) We need to hear from God through His Holy Spirit what His will is.
- 3) **In our Fellowship with Christ, if we are to be in a position to receive anything from the Father we are going to have to be in a right relationship with Jesus.**
  - (a) We stay right with Him by taking time to speak often with Jesus through our prayers.
  - (b) The Holy Spirit carries our prayers before God as sweet smelling incense.
  - (c) Jesus said, "***If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.***" (John 15:7) NKJV
- 4) Commit to taking time before God to praise Him, thank Him, and talk to Him and then listen to that still small voice that gives you peace.

## IV) Invitation:

V) **Bibliography**


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<sup>1</sup> A Study of the Lord's Prayer, John Hamby, sermoncentral.com, May 2001

<sup>2</sup> Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread: Praying Like Jesus – part 4 by Steve Malone, sermoncentral.com, July 2002

<sup>3</sup> A Study of the Lord's Prayer, John Hamby, sermoncentral.com, May 2001

<sup>4</sup> Alan Redpath. Victorious Praying: Studies in the Lord's Prayer. (Grand Rapids; Fleming Revell, 1993). p.73

<sup>5</sup> A Study of the Lord's Prayer, John Hamby, sermoncentral.com, May 2001