

March 14, 2021
Willerup United Methodist Church
Sermon Notes
Pastor Marvin Singh
The Lord's Prayer
4 – Our Daily Bread



Created by Pelin Kahraman
from Noun Project

During the season of Lent, we will reflect on the Lord's Prayer. This is the example for talking to God the Father that Jesus gave to the disciples and to us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from all evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and glory forever. Amen.

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

Dear Lord give us today our bread of nourishment according to our needs. We usually compare with others what is available to them. Our eyes always go to our neighbor, who could be an immediate next-door resident, colleague, family member or friend. The immediate statement we make is that we do not have anything. The grass always looks greener on the other side of the fence. Our fridge is full and yet we say we have nothing to eat. The closet is full of dresses but say we have nothing to wear because it is not matching. We would like to have specific color of dress. Though we have plenty, we are not content with what we have. Our children have modern gadgets like i-Phones. Compare this with some nations where a family's annual income is

less than the cost of an i-Phone. We have “bread,” and yet we demand more and better. We crave and desire for things which can satisfy “us”. What would Jesus think about this kind of people? He would be angry and frustrated. That is exactly what happened when the Lord in his mercy helped Moses to lead the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt. He fed them daily with heavenly manna. The people of Israel, instead of being thankful and grateful, started murmuring and complaining. We were better off as slaves than to eat this kind of bread daily.

Numbers 11:4-6

The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, “If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost- also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!”

Just pause a while and think of the nations for whom rice and wheat is so important, and yet they are not able to fill their bellies with needed food. The people who complain at the table regarding food should go and have first-hand knowledge of the needy and hungry people. Go to the bigger cities and look for the homeless, at the crossroads, under the bridge etc. What is our responsibility towards them?

We should be content and thank God for what we have in our fridge and on our table. Unfortunately, instead of being content we often complain. It has become our daily routine or habit.

1 Timothy 6:6-10,

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap, and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunges men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Paul again writes to the Philippians 4:11-13

...For I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know, what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Take few moments and count what you have and what is available to you. Just begin to give thanks for every blessing and name them one by one and you will be surprised.

Let us take few more moments and realize - What do we really need in our daily life?

Do you experience peace and joy? How do we thank God for what we have received from him? Every good gift comes from above and is from God, (James 1:17). As the psalmist says in Psalm 100 verse 4, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

* We need to give this bread – the very Bread of Life – to those who are hungry for the righteousness of God.

* Do not keep it for yourselves but share and give them what you have. When you share it with others, it always multiplies. A small child offered five loaves and two fishes. In the hands of God these were multiplied and fed thousands, and still the leftovers were collected in twelve baskets by the disciples. (Matthew 14:16-20)

* God is OUR FATHER, and we belong to one big family. If we truly love God and our neighbors, we will take action. We will sacrifice and give to others. The surprising miracle is that our needs will also be met.

*** What are our spiritual needs?**

1. The Word of God- Reading, Hearing and Applying

Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. Revelation 1:3

2. Hunger and thirst for righteousness

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Matthew 5:6

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” Romans 10:10-11

3. Live by the Spirit

Do not get drunk with wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord. Ephesians 5:18-19

4. Listen to the Lord

Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord. Proverbs 8:34-35

5. Fellowship with godly people.

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers, but his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and on his Law he meditates day and night. Psalms 1:1-2.

6. Fear God.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10

7. Engage in in spiritual worship

Paul urges the Romans: In view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God- this is your spiritual act of worship. Romans 12: 1

So Lord, give us our daily bread.

We are not very thankful because we are not very thoughtful. If we sincerely offer this petition, we pledge thankful recognition to God for our blessings.

*Back to the loaf is the snowy flour,
And back of the flour is mill,
And back of mill, the wheat, the shower,
The sun and the Father's will.*

- Maltbie D. Babcock

(Pastor's Annual 2008 - notes on Give us our bread)

Remember that not only is He the giver of bread, but we also need daily sustenance with his presence and supply of strength and guidance.

Some ideas from:

Ortberg, John. *The Lord's Prayer: Praying with Power*. New Community Bible Study Series, 2008

Also found in Ortberg, John, and Hybels, Bill. *Life Lessons from Jesus*. Zondervan, 2014.

Crabtree, T. T., Editor, *The Zondervan Pastor's Annual 2008*.