

## Sermon Discussion

### 13 June 2021

Read Matthew 6:5-13

#### Dig Deeper

The “bread” in view (v. 11) probably refers to all our food and even all our physical needs. Daily bread refers to the necessities of life, not its luxuries. This is a prayer for our needs, not our greeds. The expression “**this day our daily bread**” reflects 1<sup>st</sup> Century life in which workers received their pay daily. It also reminds disciples that we only live one day at a time, and each day we are dependent on God to sustain us.

“**Debts**” (Greek: *opheilemata*) probably translates the *Aramaic word “hoba”* that was a common synonym for sins. Our forgiveness of others demonstrates our felt need of forgiveness. The person who does not forgive another’s offenses does not appreciate how much he/she needs forgiveness.

“**Temptation**” means “testing.” It refers not so much to solicitation to evil as to trials that test the character. God does not test anyone according to James 1:13-14. *Why then do we need to pray that He will not lead us into testing?* Even though God is not the instrumental cause of our testing, He does permit us to experience temptation from the world, the flesh, and the devil. This is a request that He minimize the occasions of our testing that may result in our sinning.

1. The Lord’s Prayer begins with God’s character before it gets personal. How does understanding the holiness and sovereignty of God lead us into living lives that are completely dependent upon Him?
2. Jesus tells us to ask God for our “daily bread”. Sustenance only for the day requires great trust in God. How has our current cultural understanding of wealth building and pension schemes changed how we pray and trust in God?
3. Be honest. Are your prayers more like, “*God, I’m going to get as close to the line as possible and I’m counting on you to help me not sin.*”? Or are your prayers more like the words of Jesus in v. 13 - “*Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*”? What is the difference between these two approaches?
4. In v. 12, Jesus tells us to pray for our debts to be forgiven. Later in v. 14-15, He says that we need to forgive those who have sinned against us. Discuss this tension between being saved from our sins by grace alone through faith and these words of Jesus.

## Application & Prayer

- Take some time to reflect on and share as a group both some of the ways God has already provided for you, and that you are thankful for, as well as some of the things you need from Him right now.
- Find someone you trust to confess whatever temptations you need God's help with and protection from?
- Meditate on 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."* Matthew 6:9-13