

AT THE MASTER'S FEET:
A study of Jesus' Sermons in the Gospel of Matthew
AMEN Bible Study 2012-2013

THE MASTER'S ETHIC: THE TRUE LIFE

True Prayer and Fasting - Matthew 6:5-18
November 1, 2012

6:5-15 I. Our prayers must be sincere.

:5, 6

A. Sincerely motivated

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

:7, 8

B. Sincerely personal

"And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

:9-15

C. Sincerely purposeful

:9

1. for His glory

"Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.'"

WLC Question 100: What doth the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

The preface of the Lord's Prayer, which is, Our Father which art in heaven, teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.

WLC Question 101: What do we pray for in the first petition?

In the first petition, which is, Hallowed be thy name, we pray that God would enable us, and others, to glorify him in all that whereby he maketh himself known; and that he would dispose all things to his own glory.

:10a

2. for His Kingdom

"Your kingdom come..."

WLC Question 102: What do we pray for in the second petition?

In the second petition, which is, Thy kingdom come, we pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it; and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

:10b

3. for His pleasure

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

WLC Question 103: What do we pray for in the third petition?

In the third petition, which is, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven, we pray that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

:11

4. for His provision

"Give us this day our daily bread."

WLC Question 104: What do we pray for in the fourth petition?

In the fourth petition, which is, Give us this day our daily bread, we pray that of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.

:12, 14, 15

5. for His mercy

“...and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.... For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

WLC Question 105: What do we pray for in the fifth petition?

In the fifth petition, which is, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, we pray that God, for Christ’s sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

:13

6. for His protection

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

WLC Question 106: What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

In the sixth petition, which is, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

6:16-18 II. Our fasting must be sincere.

:16

A. Not for others.

“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.”

:17, 18

B. For God.

“But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”