

I. Bibliography for *The Jesus Prayer*:

- Boff, Leonardo, *The Lord's Prayer* (Orbis Books, 1983)
Crossan, John Dominic, *The Greatest Prayer* (Harper One, 2010)
Wright, N.T., *The Lord and His Prayer*, (Eerdmans, 1996)
Mulholland, James, *Praying Like Jesus* (Harper San Francisco, 2001)
Newbigin, Leslie, *Mission in Christ's Way*: (Friendship Press, 1988)
Pope Francis, *Our Father: Reflections on the Lord's Prayer* (Penguin, 2018).
Shriver, Donald, *An Ethic for Enemies: Forgiveness in Politics* (Oxford Press, 1995).
Stassen, Glen, *Living the Sermon on the Mount* (Jossey-Bass, 2006).
Thielicke, Helmut, *Our Heavenly Father: Sermons on the Lord's Prayer* (Harper Collins, 1960)
Willimon, Will and Stanley Hauerwas: *Lord Teach Us to Pray* (Abingdon, 1996)

II. Notes for Inductive Study Approach:

1. See things whole—get a bird's eye view, before a worm's eye view.
2. Questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?
3. Comparisons or Contrasts
4. Recurrence/repetition
5. General and Particular
6. Interrogations
7. Conclusion and/or Climax

III. Schedule, Spring 2019 Bible Study Hour:

March 13	Overview: Matthew and the Gospel's Core (5:1)
March 20	Salt and Light, Blessed and Honored (5:2-16)
March 27	Fulfilling Commandments (5:17-37)
April 3	Maturity on Display: Love Your Enemies (5:38 – 48)
April 10	Now, About Prayer (6:1-18)
April 17	Paying Attention (6:19-34)
April 24	Review Week
May 1	Summing Up: Straight Forward and Simple (7:1-12)
May 8	Summing Up: Being and Doing (7:13-27)
May 15	Summing Up: Our Response (7: 28-29)

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

April 10, 2019

Rev. Philip Amerson

The Jesus Prayer

IV. Matthew 6:1-18 (Jesus Prayer 6:7-15) Some Helpful Perspectives:

- 1) Jesus Prayer: The Organizing Center
- 2) The *Abba* Prayer
- 3) God the Householder
- 4) A Gift, A Command, An Assurance
- 5) Kingdom Manifesto
- 6) “Essential” Bread or “Bread Necessary for Life”
- 7) We preach “Jesus” and Jesus preached the “Kingdom.
- 8) Anointing All Around.

V. Quotes on the Jesus Prayer

St. Basil the Great (Fourth Century): *The Bread that is spoiling in your house belongs to the hungry. The shoes that are mildewing under your bed belong to those who have none. The clothes stored away in your trunk belong to those who are naked. The money that depreciates in your treasury belongs to the poor.*” (Found in Leonardo Boff's, *The Lord's Prayer*, p.84.)

Leslie Newbigin: The kingdom and Jesus are the same: Maranatha – come Lord Jesus, come kingdom. “*To separate Jesus from the kingdom, to preach Jesus without the kingdom, or to preach the kingdom without Jesus, is to betray our generation and it is to divide and destroy the church. The gospel is this: that in the man Jesus the kingdom has actually come among us in judgment and blessing. It is now the reality with which we have to deal – whether in our most private devotions or in our most public actions in the life of society.*” (Leslie Newbigin, *Mission in Christ's Way*, p 10).

From Frederick Buechner, Whistling in the Dark: *We do well not to pray the prayer lightly. It takes guts to pray it at all. We can pray it in the unthinking and perfunctory way we usually do only by disregarding what we are saying.*

"Thy will be done" is what we are saying. That is the climax of the first half of the prayer. We are asking God to be God. We are asking God to do not what we want but what God wants. We are asking God to make manifest the holiness that is now mostly hidden, to set free in all its terrible splendor the devastating power that is now mostly under restraint. "Thy kingdom come . . . on earth" is what we are saying. And if that were suddenly to happen, what then? What would stand and what would fall? Who would be welcomed in and who would be thrown the Hell out? Which if any of our most precious visions of what God is and of what human beings are would prove to be more or less on the mark and which would turn out to be phony as three-dollar bills? Boldness indeed. To speak those words is to invite the tiger out of the cage, to unleash a power that makes atomic power look like a warm breeze.

You need to be bold in another way to speak the second half. Give us. Forgive us. Don't test us. Deliver us. If it takes guts to face the omnipotence that is God's, it takes perhaps no less to face the impotence that is ours. We can do nothing without God. We can have nothing without God. Without God we are nothing.

It is only the words "Our Father" that make the prayer bearable. If God is indeed something like a father, then as something like children maybe we can risk approaching him anyway.

**JESUS' PRAYER:
THE ORGANIZING CENTER
OF THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

<i>Matthew 5:1-48</i>	<i>Jesus' Prayer</i>	<i>Matthew 6:19-7:27</i>
5:1-2 Jesus teaches on the mountain, like Moses on Mount Sinai	Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name	
5:3-16 Beatitudes: Joy because we participate in the reign that is coming	Your reign come	
5:17-48 The better righteousness of the first six triads	Your will be done on earth as in heaven	6:19-34 do not anxiously hoard treasures, food, and clothes
	Give us today our daily bread	7:1-5 Judge not; take the log out of your own eye
	Forgive us our sins	7:6-12 Do not put your trust in the dogs and pigs, but in God
	Lead us not into temptation	
	But deliver us from evil	7:13-27 Beware of false prophets