



Hardest Prayer You'll Ever Pray...

WEEK 2 • "Who are Hard Prayers directed to?" • Matthew 6:5-15, ESV

⁵"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. ⁶But 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"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. ⁸Do not be like them, for

your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread, ¹²and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. ¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

REVIEW: Previously, we looked at what hard praying wasn't! It wasn't like the _____, who prayed to be seen by men. It also wasn't like the _____, who prayed for the sake of praying, words on top of words. Both of those categories were "orphan" prayers. Jesus said we are not to pray like them. We are to pray to _____!

"If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child and having God as his father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means he does not understand Christianity very well..."J.I. Packer

"The way the hypocrites and pagans speak in prayer underlines the fact that they don't know God as Father." — Sinclair Ferguson

JESUS SAID THAT WHEN WE PRAY, WE PRAY LIKE THIS:

MY DAD AND THE KARATE GUY: My dad didn't know his background, resume or his accomplishments so therefore sitting at dinner with him wasn't that 'big of a deal' to him. The reason we aren't startled and awe-struck at the thought of saying, " _____ " is because we really have NO IDEA who we are sitting at the table with.

GENESIS 1:1-2

This is the Creator. He is the OMNI-God! OMNI-_____, OMNI-_____, Infinite, Eternal and Unchangeable. Look at how the Hebrews responded to his presence:

EXODUS 20:18-21

DEUTERONOMY 4:23-24

Not only would the Hebrews NOT speak his name, they would not speak _____!

This God calls to the _____ and they obey! (Job)

This God says _____ and there is _____!

This God can stop the _____; start a _____ and pause the _____!

He can turn the _____ and the Nile to _____!

He can consume a bush with _____ and rain _____ from the sky!

This is a God to be kept at arm's length!

This is a God for Moses to talk with, but not one for us to even hear from!

AND ALONG COMES JESUS...

YES, He is _____!

YES, He has _____!

YES, He is a consuming _____!

BUT, WHEN YOU ADDRESS HIM... WHEN YOU ARE SO BOLD AS TO EVEN SPEAK TO HIM:

YOU CALL _____ WHAT I _____ HIM: _____!

Eating dinner with Stephen Segal was "no big deal" to my dad because he had no idea who he was sitting with. Calling YAHWEH your ABBA, FATHER will never mean anything to you until you realize that you are calling GOD, "FATHER!"

Would this change the way you pray?

Can you imagine any greater fuel in the engine of your devotional life?

"On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offense, or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return. " —Annie Dillard, Teaching a Stone to Talk

Jesus isn't downplaying his Father's _____-ness; he is emphasizing God's _____-ness!

The Hebrews cried out in _____ because they knew Yahweh as God, but not Father. Jesus teaches us to cry out in _____ because we know Yahweh as the God who is ALSO Our Father.

WHO ARE YOU PRAYING TO: A COMPASSIONATE FATHER OR A CONSUMING FIRE?

- CONFESSION
- PETITION
- THANKSGIVING
- CONTRAST & CONTINUITY

Bear Bryant Illustration (*with apologies to everyone else in the SEC*)