

## **Wirksworth Team Ministry**

### **Elton Lent Course 2007**

# **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Traditional**

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

#### **Matthew 6:9-13**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one.

#### **Luke 11:2-4**

Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. [may your Holy Spirit come on us and  
cleanse us]  
Give us each day our daily bread  
and forgive us our sins for we forgive everyone in debt to us  
And do not subject us to the final test.

#### **About 1600**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our bread for the morrow.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen

#### **Proposed schedule (feel free to suggest otherwise)**

27 February	First impressions. Father, heaven, hallowed, name.
6 March	Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on/in earth as in heaven.
13 March	Give us today our daily bread.
20 March	Forgive us our debts/sins/trespasses as we forgive our debtors etc.
27 March	And do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from evil. Big picture review.

## **The Lord's Prayer: Session 1**

### **Stanley's (fairly random) thoughts:**

#### **First impressions**

- What do you think?
- Biblical contexts.
- What is Christian about it?

#### **Father**

- What do we mean by Father?
- Implications for children?
- Images of fatherhood
- who/which
- Biblical models
- Personal models
- What about Trinity? Word? Wisdom? Spirit? Son?
- Creation? Pre-existence?
- Dependence, free will

#### **Heaven**

- Images of heaven
- Internal and/or external?
- Journey to heaven
- Separate from the world?

#### **Hallowed be thy name**

- Hallowing? Why?
- Thy
- Naming
- I AM
- Who is acting? Why?
- Can we hallow if we don't perceive? How do we perceive God/father?
  - revelation
  - inspiration
  - otherness
  - emotion
  - biology

## **The Lord's Prayer: Session 2**

### **Stanley's (fairly random) thoughts:**

#### **Thy kingdom**

- What is the kingdom? Basileia (abstract noun) means rule of the king, quality of being royal.
- Values and attribute of kingship.
- Personal.
- Justice is love in community? Ali G's respect.
- JPIC. Balance.
- How does salvation fit in?
  - concepts of salvation
  - saved from what?
  - saved to what?
  - saved by what?
  - process or event or both?
  - with what effect?

#### **Come**

Greek tense: let it come.

- Our role?

**Thy will be done:** let your will be done.

- Our role?

#### **In/on?**

Is the earth itself, or the cosmos, excluded?

**In earth as it is in heaven** (maybe leave to next week)

It's up to us to make it happen here and now. Jesus is never wishy-washy.

## **The Lord's Prayer: Session 3**

### **Thy will be done (continued)**

- The whole universe responds to the gift of God.
- BCP: as angels do God's service in heaven, so we reflect that service on earth.
- God's glory and beauty reflected back to God by creation, stars, the planets, angels, plants, animals. And also by us, which means we should do what we feel drawn to do, do what we are good at, do what we feel comfortable doing, so long as it is in line with Christ's teaching. We unfortunately have a kind of deafness about doing the what comes naturally. Certain kinds of Christianity sometimes teach that we should be punishing ourselves.

### **Give us each day (this day) our daily bread**

- Give us day by day the food/bread we need,
- Our bread for tomorrow, give us today.
- Do not start worrying: 'Where will my food come from? or my drink? or my clothes?' ...Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things. Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things.
- Hunger
  - Blessed are you who are hungry..."
  - How blest are those who know their need of God; the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.
  - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
  - Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully!
  - Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

### **Give us this day our daily bread**

- Greek difficulties: could mean daily, could mean stuff we need to survive, could mean the bread we want for tomorrow or even the bread of tomorrow; "give us today tomorrow's bread".
- Could mean "give us now a taste of the bread we shall eat in the Kingdom of God": give us a foretaste of that great banquet and celebration where the universe is drawn together by Christ in the presence of God the Father. So Holy Communion: bread for today, but also a foretaste of the bread of heaven, the presence of Jesus at his table. Love bade me welcome (Herbert).
- Perhaps just: keep us going, give us what we really need. We don't "live by bread alone" ...
- We don't live just by having our material needs fulfilled, we need something more: e.g. hope, ideas, inspiration, creativity.
- Local/global?

## **The Lord's Prayer: Session 4**

### **Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us**

Debts/sins/trespasses

What is sin? Instead of the good things I want to do, I end up doing the bad things I don't want to do.

"Forgive us our trespasses" – hardest bit of the Lord's Prayer?

- it tells us that to pray is also to be willing to change.

Can I ask to be forgiven unless I forgive?

- It's in our capacity to forgive that we show we've been forgiven.

Unless our awareness of God's forgiveness really sinks in, we shan't be able to forgive.

- Story of the King's servant.
- One of the early church fathers: 'it's a bit like teaching a child to do something. The parent does it carefully a few times, then steps back and says now you show me. God forgives us and then steps back and says now you show me how to forgive.' (from R Williams).

When I feel forgiven it changes me and all my relationships because it changes the way I relate to the world.

From whom do we need forgiveness?

Forgiveness and guilt. What do you think of these?

- What matters to Jesus is not sin and wrongdoing, but repentance. Gracious father. Prostitute. The light bulb has to want to change.
- Eckhart: Truly to have committed a sin is not sinful if we regret what we have done.
- Forgiveness and punishment: 'a bottomless well of uncritical forgiveness would devalue virtue.' 'Love and caring do not remove the obligation for personal effort.'
- Paul saw that the only way to change a human heart was through acceptance and forgiveness. Ephesians 4:32. It is only when I find someone who does not criticise my behaviour that I can find the will to do something about it: I need help when I'm down, not just on the way back up.
- South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

How does 'love one's enemy and pray for one's persecutors' affect adjudicators and the law?

## **The Lord's Prayer: Session 5**

### **And lead us not into temptation**

- Why? Surely it's good to be tested.
- Jesus' teaching often turns back to the idea that a great time of trial is coming, when we shall find out what we're really capable of. We're coming towards a time when you really have to decide how much God matters; will we have resources to cope when things get really difficult.
- 'Lead us not into temptation' doesn't quite capture all that. Time of trial. Sins. Crisis (= opportunity).
- Lead us not into crisis, don't, please God don't push us into the time of crisis before you've made us ready for it. Don't push us until you've given us what we need to face it.

### **but deliver us from evil**

- How is this different from 'and lead us not into temptation'?
- Set us free. Jubilee.
- Set us free from all those things, the fears, the sins, the selfish habits that keep us prisoner.
- Freedom from ... or freedom to ....
- It probably originally meant 'save us from the Evil One.'
- Devil.
- 'And whether or not people these days believe in a personal devil, I think the idea that the principle or the power of evil coming in to make the most of our weakness and our fear, that still makes sense. And we can still quite rightly pray to be delivered from that.' (Williams).
- What is evil?
  - The evil one?
  - The evil part of us?
  - Inhumanity?
  - Separation from God?
  - Privatio boni?
  - Jesus in the desert? The temptation to show off for our sake alone?

### **The whole prayer**

- What does it sound like?
- What does it feel like?
- What is its context?
- If we lived by its commands, how would we live differently?
- What do you find the most challenging bit(s)?