

Matthew 19 – Our Father in Heaven

Matthew 6:5-15

Fallen Condition Focus (FCF): We must hold God's justice and mercy in tension to truly come to God

Intro – The Lord's Prayer

- Preface, 6 petitions, first three focused upon God, second three focused upon our needs
- Conclusion – prayer ends in vs 13 (deliver us from evil)
 - earliest manuscripts don't have a conclusion
 - "For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever"
 - Doxology (doxa – glory/praise, logia – words, speaking)

Point 1 – We must draw near to God reverently

- He is Our Father in **Heaven**
 - **Habakkuk 2:20** the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.
 - **Isaiah 6:3-5**
 - **Psalms 47:2** For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.
 - **Revelation 6:15-17**
- Illustration of Eli and his sons
 - Play on words – "honor sons" – "kabad", literally make heavy, give glory
 - Ichabod – "glory has departed"
 - If we do not "heavy" God, give him reverent glory, instead of ourselves, he will lightly esteem us

Point 2 – We must draw near to God affectionately

- Opposite point?
- We must approach him reverently, but we must approach him affectionately as well
- To ignore either is to misrepresent God
- If God is only Holy, we get a distant sovereign, unapproachable, standoffish – our faith will reflect that
 - Distance from God
 - Lack of desire to draw near to Him
 - Treat others as God treats us – judging, lacking affection, unapproachable
- If God is only Abba, we will treat him lightly
 - Not giving him honor
 - Not treating him with reverence and holiness
- Religious analogy of elephant, blind men
- Illustration of access to the president