

## Matthew 21 – The Lord’s Prayer, Three Man Centered Petitions

### Matthew 6:7-15

***Fallen Condition Focus (FCF):*** *God answers our prayers and meets our needs, not because of what we do, but because of who He is.*

#### Point 1 – Trusting God to meet our physical needs

- Nature of Bread in Biblical times
- Representative of all physical/earthly needs
- Need to depend upon him daily
- God promises to provide our needs, not our greeds
- Lord’s Prayer call us to position of humble dependence for physical needs

#### Point 2 – Trusting God to meet our spiritual needs – freedom from the guilt of sin

- Greatest spiritual need is freedom from the guilt of our sin
- “Forgive us our debts”
- Luke 7, Story of two men forgiven their debts
- Different ways to handle our debt of sin
  - We can minimize it – not that bad; everybody does it
  - Find a reason to excuse it - Wasn’t my fault; I only did it because they did this...
  - We can fudge it – I was righteously angry; I wasn’t gossiping, I was sharing a concern;
  - We can straight up deny it – Franklin Graham uninvited to National Day of Prayer service, Gene Robinson welcomed to Inauguration prayer service
  - Sometimes we acknowledge our sin
    - But we just don’t have the ability to resist temptation, wallow in guilt and misery – still not handling debt
    - Or we see our sin and decide that we are going to make ourselves better, man-up – deceiving ourselves into thinking we can handle the debt ourselves
  - Only one right way – acknowledge our great debt and look to Jesus as the only one who can cover it
- Acknowledging our debt will change us

#### Point 3 - Trusting God to meet our spiritual needs – freedom from the power of sin

- Despite the forgiveness we experience, we will continue to deal with temptation
  - Devil will try to convince us that we are still under his power
  - Freed from the guilt of sin, but still living under its dominion
  - Illustration of Japanese soldier after World War 2
- We shouldn’t accept temptation and failure as the norm
- In the Lord’s Prayer we ask God to steer us away from the temptations that might cause us to stumble, and to grant us the strength to resist the temptations we face