

Matthew 6:9-13

--We are now on our sixth installment of the Lord's prayer, which isn't the Lord's prayer but the disciple's prayer or actually the sinner's prayer.

--I call it the sinner's prayer because our sin is one the topics He taught us to pray about.

--Two times Jesus teaches His disciples to pray and both times He teaches them to bring up their sins: **Luke 11:2-3**

--We keep trying to push the whole idea of our sinfulness into some distant memory but, apparently, Jesus wants it at the forefront of our thinking

--In fact, the Scriptures, especially and including the New Testament, major on this. **1 John 1:9**

--Communion is a constant reminder of Jesus Body and Blood that were sacrificed for our sins.

--We like to say around Christmas time that "Jesus is the reason for the season", but actually our sins are the reason --Jesus becoming a man was a means to an end—that end being providing forgiveness for sins.

--But hasn't Jesus come and died and paid for our sins, and aren't our sins forgiven the moment we accept Jesus' salvation?

--But Jesus on two different occasions when teaching on prayer tells us that we need to ask for forgiveness of our sins as an essential part of our prayer life.

--Why do we need to keep asking for forgiveness, why do we continually need a reminder of our sins?

--We will answer that question, but first let's first review what's really going on in our world: we only have one problem and it is sin.

--It is not a mystery what's wrong with our world and neither is it a mystery what sin is—rebellion against God.

--Sin is our single problem and forgiveness is our single cure.

--Sin is the reason for this season, it is the reason for Easter, it is the reason why Jesus came and it is the reason He will return.

--It is why we grow old, deteriorate, get sick, and die.

--It is not a problem--it is the problem. And God has a problem with it.

--God is so serious about sin that He is going to see to it that every sin every committed is punished—not sin will go unpunished **Exodus 23:7;**

Nahum 3; Romans 1:18 – all means all.

--God is angry with the wicked: **Psalm 7:11**

--God hates those who do iniquity **Psalm 5:5**.

--In case you class yourself as such: **Romans 3:11; 13; Ephesians 2:1; Ephesians 2:3; Ephesians 2:12**

--Sin is the culprit in every broken marriage, in every disrupted home, in every shattered friendship, in every argument, in every battle and war, every conflict, every pain, every sorrow, every death.

--Because this is all true, forgiveness is mankind's greatest need—Nothing even comes close.

--Which brings us, finally, to the good news—God has already punished our sin in the suffering and death of His Son proving that we can be forgiven by raising Him from the dead.

--Forgiveness is available and one of the ways we know that it is because that's exactly what Jesus tells us to ask for in this Model Prayer.

--Back to our original question: why if God has forgiven us in Christ does He continue to tell us to ask for forgiveness?

--The answer is pretty easy if you understand the purpose of prayer—not to change God, not shape heaven, not get our agenda heard, not to teach God or help God with anything.

--God wants this to be way of life for us.

--These first two personal requests deeply affect my view of myself--I may be worth 10's or hundreds of thousands, but He tells me that I'm to come to Him and ask for bread every day--humiliating isn't it?

--I'm way past needing bread but I'm still totally dependent upon Him for my next bite.

--Have I been forgiven in Christ? Of course! But He still tells me to ask for forgiveness every day. Humiliating isn't it?

--I'm way past needing to be forgiven in Christ and, yet, I'm dependent on that forgiveness every day--so I need to ask and thus reminded of it every day.

--Like my food, which I have an abundance of, I have forgiveness in abundance, but I need a reminder everyday lest I think any of it I can acquire on my own.