

## LHCF Sermon Discussion Guide

Pastor Barry Tuggle



### Connecting with God: The Lord's Prayer—Part 5 The Importance of Dependence

*"Give us today our daily bread." Matt. 6:11*

#### 1. Depending on God Defined: Seeing Him as My Source

#### 2. How to depend on God

- Everything is a gift from God.  
*"GIVE us today our daily bread" Matt. 6:11 (NIV)*
- There's nothing I need that God can't provide  
*"God will supply all that you ever need from him glorious resources in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19 (Ph)*
- God wants to provide for me.  
*"If you were asked by your son for bread, would you give him a stone? How much more likely is it that your heavenly Father will give good things to those who ask him?" Matt. 7:11 (NIV)*
- Replace worry with prayer.  
*"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Phil. 4:6 (NLT)*
- Give thanks in all circumstances.  
*"Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live." 1Thess. 5:16-18 (MSG)*

#### Small Group Life:

*"Give us today our daily bread."* Remember that this part of prayer is renewing our dependence on Jesus for all that we need...physically, spiritually, emotionally, and relationally.

#### Why is depending on God, seeing Him as my source?

- May seem obvious, but in truth most of us have "other" sources:
  - Self – "god helps those who help themselves"
  - Employment/job
  - Government
  - Charitable organizations
  - Other people – parents, friends, anyone with money

- Reality is, God alone is our source, and we were made to be dependent upon him.
- Failure to depend on God results in other dependencies...we cannot and should not be dependent on.
- Psalm 104 says this *"The ocean teams with life of every kind both great and small. Every one of these depend on you to give them daily food. You supply it and they gather it."*
- This is the economy of God. God says I will supply it. You gather it. So when we pray, *"Give us this day our daily bread,"* it doesn't mean you sit on the couch, veg out and wait for God to just throw you money. No, you've got to work. God says I supply it. You gather it.
- Remember the Bible says this in Proverbs 14:23 *"Hard work pays off, mere talk puts no bread on the table."*

#### How to depend on God!

#### Why is everything a gift from God?

- Bible tells us in the book of James *"Every good and perfect gift is from God above."* That's why the Lord's Prayer in this third phrase starts with the word "give." *"Give us today our daily bread."* Why? Because it is a gift. You can't earn it.
- You may say "my paycheck is no gift, I worked hard and earned it". Things to think about...
  - Who gave you the opportunity for the job
  - The intellect to fulfill your job description
  - The physical strength to perform your job description
  - Your eyes to see
  - Ears to hear
  - Lungs to breath
  - Heart to circulate blood
  - Mind to learn
- You do gather, because that's God's plan, but the means to gather a paycheck you would never accomplish without His supply.
- Why does the prayer say "GIVE"?

#### Is there anything I need that God cannot provide?

- There's nothing I need that God can't provide. It means that as a child of God, as a follower of Christ, I should never and you should never have a scarcity mentality.
- What is a scarcity mentality? A scarcity mentality says, "I'm afraid there isn't going to be enough. There's not enough to go around. So I'm going to panic. I'm going to worry. I'm going to get anxious. I'm going to be afraid."

- There's more than enough to go around, friends. There's plenty in the world for everybody. There's enough for all the need in the world. There's not enough for all the *greed* in the world. The reason why some don't have enough is not because it isn't available...it's because of greed.

### **Why does God want to provide for you?**

- Critical point about God's nature, He is not a God that is stingy or aloof, He loves you and cares for you like any good Father.
- If my kids come to me and say, "Daddy, I'm hungry!" What am I going to do? Give them a piece of rubber to chew on? No. I'm going to get them some food. If they're genuinely hungry I'm going to help them out. And if I know how to do this and I'm imperfect certainly God who is perfect in his love toward you, wants to meet all your needs. It says God is waiting. He wants to meet your need Matt. 7: 9-11.
- Question often comes up "Why is my life so difficult?" or "Why is \$ so tight"
- Remember...
  - He provides what we need, not what we want
  - He's always thinking about our best interest from eternal perspective, our character, our love, our priorities
  - We tend to be thinking about what's comfortable, this is not God's primary priority, just like we say no to our children
- We do well to always be looking for His nature in our circumstances, not our comfort.

### **Why should we replace worry with prayer?**

- Hardest commandment in the Bible..."don't worry" I don't struggle with murder; I don't struggle with adultery, coveting, envying or slander or malice.
- Worry is another story...I sin several times a day most days!
- Almost always my worry is a symptom of another sin...taking thought for tomorrow...I'm living out in the future when God tells me to live in the present...
- Matt. 6:34 "*Don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time.*"
- Doesn't mean we don't ever plan for tomorrow or think of tomorrow.
- If you never think ahead about paying bills, scheduling, ministry, school and work...you'll never have any success. Interesting though that planning doesn't stress us nearly as much as a "scarcity mentality" does.

- I wonder if God is offended when we worry...
- If my kids when they were small came to me and said, "Dad, we're worried about the house." *You guys don't have to worry about it. I'm going to pay for the house.* "Dad, we don't think you can do that. And Dad we're worried about whether we're going to have a meal tonight." *Don't worry about it. I've got it taken care of.* "Dad, we don't think you're competent to take care of that." That would be an insult to me. If my kids worried that I couldn't take care of them, I would be insulted.
- One definition of worry – "a future without God in it"
- Worry really is practical atheism...It's saying "God I don't really believe you." When you worry you are acting like an orphan. We're acting like we don't have a spiritual Father in heaven who cares.
- Best way I know to shut down worry is through thanksgiving...

### **Why should we give thanks in all circumstances?**

- Bible doesn't teach to us to be thankful for everything, we don't express thanksgiving for having been treated evil.
- We give thanks "in" all things...WHY?
- Every situation/experience is "Father filtered"
- He uses the bad in life to accomplish His purposes in us.
- If we trust Him, our life will be better off for having gone through the bad.
- Thankfulness/gratitude are attitudes we must choose...either:
  - Panic or praise
  - Worry or worship
  - Grumble or gratitude
- Comes back to knowing and experiencing His nature.

Prayer should move our hearts toward depending on Him for our every need.

### **Remember we are depending on God when we:**

- Recognize that all we have and ever will have is gift from God
- Realize that all I need He can provide
- Remember that God wants to provide for me
- Replace our worries with prayer
- Rejoice and give thanks in all things

**Mission or Ministry as appropriate** – Who can you invite to your group or minister to that are having trouble trusting God...don't let them battle that alone, help them get in a small group and open up!