

# “When You Pray ...”

## (Part 2)



*The Sermon on the Mount is not a set of rules and regulations – It is a picture of the life we will live when the Holy Spirit is having His unhindered way with us. (My Utmost for His Highest, July 25)*

When I was teaching at Auburn Academy, near Seattle, Travis – a junior who was a good friend and skateboarding buddy of my son – started having severe pain in his shoulder and back just before Christmas, 1998.

After a month or so of x-rays, CAT scans, and MRI’s at Seattle’s Children’s Hospital, he was finally diagnosed with a rare variety of juvenile Leukemia.

Of course, he immediately started on intense treatment for it. As the treatments continued, and the cancer got worse prayers intensified on his behalf and He was anointed in a bedside ceremony.

He continued to grow weaker as the cancer grew stronger.

Prior to this he was a spiritually minded young man, but this process brought him really close to Jesus.

His classmates rallied around him and tried to include him in everyway they could. When they had class outings – they would take him along in a wheelchair. During these times, he would regularly share with them how much Jesus meant to him and how he was praying for them.

### Last Week

Last week we began looking at the topic of prayer in the passage we generally refer to as the [Sermon on the Mount](#) ([click here](#) to view or print it). We spent most of our time on the first sentence of the sample prayer Jesus gave us – commonly called the Lord’s Prayer.

*“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name ...” (Matthew 6:9, KJV)*

We noted that in Aramaic (the language of the common people back then), the word Jesus used for “Father” is the word “Abba” – which is an intimate, endearing term for father roughly equivalent in our language to *daddy*. It is still an important word in the languages of the Middle East and is often the first word a baby there says.

This tells you how God feels about you – very much like a Dad who watches over you and is full of love for you. He is a personal, hands-on, loving Dad!

The rest of this phrase tells us of the power and majesty of God – He is in Heaven and is absolutely powerful and holy.

Jesus is showing us a Father God who is inexpressibly tender yet infinitely powerful.

When we get to know God, both tender and powerful, we can then pray from a place of trust, rather than a place of doubt.

## The Prayer

Today, we are going to look at the rest of the Lord’s Prayer. We won’t exhaust its incredible depth – many books have been written about it – but we will look at the main points and why they matter. Let’s say it together:

*“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.” (Matthew 6:9-13, KJV)*

It is interesting to note, the first part of this prayer would have seemed familiar to Jesus’ disciples. It is similar in form to an common prayer of that time called “the Kaddish (one of the three most important prayers in Jewish liturgy), which went like this:

*“Magnified and hallowed be His great name In this world which He created according to His will. And may He establish His kingdom during your life.” \**

Jesus took the familiar and reworded it adding to it the intimacy of a personal God, a heavenly Dad who is a perfect Father.

### Part 1 – Upward

Depending on which translation you are reading, it is divided into three or four parts – more on that later. The first part is found in verse 9 and focuses our attention upward – towards God:

*“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name ...” (Matthew 6:9, KJV)*

As we have already noted, this reminds us that God, as a perfect, heavenly Dad, is both tender and powerful. It helps bring us into His presence with an attitude of trust and confidence.

### Part 2 – Outward

The second part, found in verse 10, focuses our attention outward – to the world around us:

*“... Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10, KJV)*

“Thy kingdom come ...” evokes a picture of Jesus’ coming – ushering in an eternity where God’s principles of love will be the dominant feature. There, sin with all its suffering and death will no longer be present.

But it also brings us to here and now. “... Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”

It tells us that God’s Kingdom is here on this earth right now – it is living in God’s followers all around the world. It invites us to ask Him to be even more active, bringing more people to Him.

We often call this intercession – asking for God to be more involved with people around us and throughout the world.

I don’t completely understand how this works, but from what I see in Scripture, when we invite God to work on someone’s behalf, it appears to free Him to do more than He could do if He was not asked. It may have something to do with the rules of engagement in the war that is raging between Satan and God.

### Part 3 – Focus Inward

The third part of this prayer, found in verses 11 – 13, focuses our attention inward – to our needs:

*“Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:”* ([Matthew 6:11-13](#), KJV)

This is a simple request for God to take care of our needs – all of them.

- **Our physical needs** – food, clothing, shelter, etc.
- **Our need for forgiveness** – we have all sinned and fall short. When God forgives us He frees us from the penalty of sin, giving us right standing with Himself – accepting Jesus’ perfection in place of our sinfulness. In theological terms, we call this justification. (See [Romans 3:19-26](#) & [Steps to Christ, pages 62-63](#))
- **Our need for deliverance** – we are surrounded by a world that intends to draw us away from God. Except for God’s grace freeing us from the power of sin, we would not have a chance at living a righteous life. In theological terms, we call this sanctification. (See [Romans 6:1-11](#) & [Steps to Christ, pages 62-63](#))

This covers everything we need – both to live here on this earth and to be ready to enjoy eternity with God beginning at the Second Coming. We can know He will take care of this because He is our loving Dad, as well as the most powerful and smart being in the universe!

This is the only part of the prayer Jesus added a commented on. After He completed the prayer, He said:

*“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”* ([Matthew 6:14-15](#), NLT)

This almost sounds like works – if you do this (forgive others) then God will do that (forgive you). Otherwise, all bets are off.

But, here's the thing – if you refuse to forgive someone, you're not generally thinking about them from a place of love. And didn't Jesus say that your actions of love would be the crowning evidence that you are following Him? (See [John 13:33-35](#).)

By refusing to forgive, you are holding on to resentment, anger, and often times hate – the basis of sin.

The good news is, you can be forgiven for this and cleansed from it just like you can for any other sin. You confess it to Jesus, ask Him to cleanse you, and then act on his command. (See [1 John 1:9 – 2:11](#), [1 John 3:11-24](#), & [1 John 4:7-21](#))

By commenting on this, Jesus is essentially saying that not forgiving others is so bad that it will seriously derail your walk with God. He is again affirming the importance of living out our faith. It's only real when it enables us to demonstrate our love for others as an expression of our love for Him. And forgiving others would be basic to that.

## Part 4 – Focus Upward

The last part of this prayer is found in verse 13. It is not included in most modern translations because it is not found in the earliest manuscripts we have of Matthew or Luke (the other place we find the Lord's prayer – see [Luke 11:2-4](#)). In those, Jesus' prayer ends with asking for deliverance from evil.

It is; however, a beautiful way to focus the attention back to God. It is a good reminder of why we can ask God to take care of all our needs.

*“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”* ([Matthew 6:13](#), KJV)

## Why This Matters

So here we have the Lord's Prayer. It's been repeated countless times down through the ages. If you have been a Christian for a while, you have probably said it dozens of times.

It has been the first prayer many have learned. It has brought comfort to millions. And, it teaches us the basics of prayer.

These words from [Steps to Christ](#), sum it up well:

*If we come to God, feeling helpless and dependent, as we really are, and in humble, trusting faith make known our wants to Him whose knowledge is infinite, who sees everything in creation, and who governs everything by His will and word, He can and will attend to our cry, and will let light shine into our hearts.* ([Steps to Christ, page 97](#))

## Travis Concluded

Early in his senior year, Travis asked for another anointing service – not especially to be healed, but to be sure he was right with God.

That anointing service was an intense one - many of us, through our tears, begging God to heal him.

He wasn't healed.

The time came when there was nothing more they could do for him in the hospital and he went home to wait for the inevitable.

When asked if he ever questioned why this was happening to him, he replied: "Why not me? I love Jesus and am ready to meet him. It's better that it happens to me than to someone who doesn't know and love Jesus."

One evening he was having a particularly bad bout with pain and nausea, so they loaded him into the car and headed back to Children's Hospital (about 30 minutes away). On the way, Travis needed to stop for a bathroom. He wanted to go in alone so his parents would not have to see his pain.

While his father was standing outside the door, a stranger approached, a well-dressed man who seemed very kind. He went right into the bathroom.

After a while when Travis did not come out, his father went into the bathroom to check on him. The stranger was no where to be found, but Travis seemed to be focused on Someone his father couldn't see.

They went back to the car and continued the drive. All the while, Travis was focused on Someone the rest of them could not see – he was very peaceful and didn't seem to be in any pain. Before they arrived at the hospital, he died.

His funeral, a few days later was very emotional as his life and courage was celebrated. It sparked a revival there among the students and staff that made a significant impact on the remainder of the school year.

Some might say that Travis' disease and death were a part of God's plan. While a loving father will discipline his child, no loving father will plan for his child to suffer the way Travis did.

I don't believe a God of love ever plans for His children to suffer.

Suffering, disease, pain, and death are the work of an enemy, not of our Heavenly Dad.

The power and glory of God is this: He is able to take anything Satan throws at you – even those things that are meant to destroy you – and make something powerful and beautiful in your life from it. (See [Romans 8:28](#).)

Because Travis loved God and trusted Him, his Heavenly Dad was able to use what Satan threw at him intending to destroy him and his family to fulfill the desire of Travis' heart – helping his classmates come to know Jesus.

A loving Heavenly Dad answered Travis' prayers on behalf of his friends turning their attention towards Jesus – advancing God's Kingdom here on earth.

We see Travis, forgiven and cleansed, being loved and cared for as he died secure in Jesus!

It's really not a tragedy when a person dies secure in Jesus – it's a victory. One more person safely out of Satan's reach.

This is the purpose of the Lord's Prayer; therefore, the fundamental purpose of all prayer – bringing people to God and then safely home to an eternity with Him.

And when we approach prayer this way, we will draw closer to Jesus. And we will see His love flow out from us to others drawing them to Him as well.

One of my favorite Bible Promises is found in Philippians 4, where Paul wrote:

*Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

**(Philippians 4:6-7, NLT)**

When we bring everything to God, we can enjoy a rest and peace that is indescribable. I love the way The Message translates that last phrase:

*... It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.*

**(Philippians 4:7, the Message)**

Prayer is not really about getting things from God. It is about getting God Himself. And when we have God, we have everything for all eternity.

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\* From the book *How to Pray* by Pete Greig. See the Notes Section below for more information.

## Notes

Text you find in **this color** is a link to more information. It may take you to the Bible verse in context and/or in several different translations utilizing [BibleGateway.com](http://BibleGateway.com). In some cases, it may take you to a website where there is additional information. And, it may take you to a PDF copy of previous sermons in this series.

## Additional Resources

**How to Pray** by Pete Greig, The Navigators © 2019, The Navigators. [Click here](#) to purchase a paper copy of this book. For electronic copies; [click here](#) for Apple products (*iBooks*), [click here](#) for a Kindle Edition, [click here](#) for a Nook Book.

*“It’s fascinating to note that the first half of the Lord’s Prayer was not entirely original to Jesus. He seems to have adopted and adapted the opening lines from another contemporary prayer known as the Kaddish (one of the three most important prayers in Jewish liturgy), which went like this:*

*Magnified and hallowed be His great name In this world which He created according to His will. And may He establish His kingdom during your life.*

*“The similarities to the Lord’s Prayer are striking:*

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.”* (Excerpt from *How to Pray*, page 78)

## Previous Sermons in this Series

- July 20, 2019: [Seek Ye First \(The Sermon, Part 1\)](#)
- July 27, 2019: [Blessed \(The Sermon, Part 2\)](#)
- August 24, 2019: [Salty Light \(The Sermon, Part 3\)](#)
- September 7, 2019: [“You Have Heard ...” \(The Sermon, Part 4a\)](#)
- September 21, 2019: [“You Have Heard ... \(Concluded\)” \(The Sermon, Part 4b\)](#)
- October 19, 2019: [“When You Pray ...” \(The Sermon, Part 5a\)](#)

## Scripture References

**Psalm 37:1-7 (NLT):** *Don’t worry about the wicked or envy those who do wrong. <sup>2</sup> For like grass, they soon fade away. Like spring flowers, they soon wither.*

<sup>3</sup> *Trust in the LORD and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. <sup>4</sup> Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart’s desires.*

<sup>5</sup> Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you. <sup>6</sup> He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun.

<sup>7</sup> Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes. (Psalm 37:1-7, NLT)

**Psalm 147:7-11 (NIV):** Sing to the LORD with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp.

<sup>8</sup> He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills.

<sup>9</sup> He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call.

<sup>10</sup> His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior; <sup>11</sup> the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

(Psalm 147:7-11, NIV)

**Matthew 5 – 7 (NLT):** One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.

### The Beatitudes

<sup>3</sup> “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

<sup>4</sup> God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.

<sup>6</sup> God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

<sup>10</sup> God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

<sup>11</sup> “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. <sup>12</sup> Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

### Teaching about Salt and Light

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

## Teaching about the Law

<sup>17</sup> “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. <sup>18</sup> I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. <sup>19</sup> So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God’s laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

<sup>20</sup> “But I warn you – unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

## Teaching about Anger

<sup>21</sup> “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ (Exodus 20:13) <sup>22</sup> But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

<sup>23</sup> “So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

<sup>25</sup> “When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup> And if that happens, you surely won’t be free again until you have paid the last penny.

## Teaching about Adultery

<sup>27</sup> “You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’ (Exodus 20:14)

<sup>28</sup> But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> So if your eye – even your good eye – causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your hand – even your stronger hand – causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

## Teaching about Divorce

<sup>31</sup> “You have heard the law that says, ‘A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.’ (Deuteronomy 24:1) <sup>32</sup> But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.

## Teaching about Vows

<sup>33</sup> “You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.’ (Numbers 30:2) <sup>34</sup> But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, ‘By heaven!’ because heaven is God’s throne. <sup>35</sup> And do not say, ‘By the earth!’ because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, ‘By Jerusalem!’ for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup> Do not even say, ‘By my head!’ for you can’t turn one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

## Teaching about Revenge

<sup>38</sup> “You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ (Exodus 21:24, Leviticus 24:20, Deuteronomy 19:21) <sup>39</sup> But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. <sup>40</sup> If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. <sup>41</sup> If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles. <sup>42</sup> Give to those who ask, and don’t turn away from those who want to borrow.

## Teaching about Love for Enemies

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ (Leviticus 19:18) and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup> But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! <sup>45</sup> In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. <sup>46</sup> If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. <sup>47</sup> If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. <sup>48</sup> But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

## Teaching about Giving to the Needy

**6** “Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup> When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do – blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. <sup>4</sup> Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

## Teaching about Prayer and Fasting

<sup>5</sup> “When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

<sup>7</sup> “When you pray, don’t babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. <sup>8</sup> Don’t be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! <sup>9</sup> Pray like this:

*Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. <sup>10</sup> May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us today the food we need, <sup>12</sup> and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. <sup>13</sup> And don’t let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.*

<sup>14</sup> “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

<sup>16</sup> “And when you fast, don’t make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. <sup>18</sup> Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

### Teaching about Money and Possessions

<sup>19</sup> “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

<sup>22</sup> “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. <sup>23</sup> But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

<sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

<sup>25</sup> “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life – whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing?

<sup>26</sup> Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? <sup>27</sup> Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

<sup>28</sup> “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, <sup>29</sup> yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. <sup>30</sup> And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

<sup>31</sup> “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father

already knows all your needs. <sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

<sup>34</sup> “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

### Do Not Judge Others

**7** “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. <sup>2</sup> For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.

<sup>3</sup> “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? <sup>4</sup> How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.

<sup>6</sup> “Don’t waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don’t throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.

### Effective Prayer & the Golden Rule

<sup>7</sup> “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>9</sup> “You parents – if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? <sup>10</sup> Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! <sup>11</sup> So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

<sup>12</sup> “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

### The Narrow Gate

<sup>13</sup> “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. <sup>14</sup> But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

### The Tree and Its Fruit

<sup>15</sup> “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves.

<sup>16</sup> You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. <sup>19</sup> So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

## True Disciples

<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. <sup>22</sup> On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ <sup>23</sup> But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

## Building on a Solid Foundation

<sup>24</sup> “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. <sup>25</sup> Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. <sup>26</sup> But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. <sup>27</sup> When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> for he taught with real authority – quite unlike their teachers of religious law. (Matthew 5 – 7, NLT)

**Matthew 10:28-31 (NLT):** “Don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> What is the price of two sparrows – one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. <sup>30</sup> And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> So don’t be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.” (Matthew 10:28-31, NLT)

**Matthew 19:28-30 (NLT):** Jesus replied, “I assure you that when the world is made new and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup> And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life. <sup>30</sup> But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then. (Matthew 19:28-30, NLT)

**Matthew 21:18-22 (NLT):** In the morning, as Jesus was returning to Jerusalem, he was hungry, <sup>19</sup> and he noticed a fig tree beside the road. He went over to see if there were any figs, but there were only leaves. Then he said to it, “May you never bear fruit again!” And immediately the fig tree withered up.

<sup>20</sup> The disciples were amazed when they saw this and asked, “How did the fig tree wither so quickly?”

<sup>21</sup> Then Jesus told them, “I tell you the truth, if you have faith and don’t doubt, you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown

into the sea,' and it will happen. <sup>22</sup> **You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it.**" (Matthew 21:18-22, NLT)

**Luke 6:20-29 (NLT):** Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said,

*"God blesses you who are poor, for the Kingdom of God is yours.*

<sup>21</sup> *God blesses you who are hungry now, for you will be satisfied.*

*God blesses you who weep now, for in due time you will laugh.*

<sup>22</sup> *What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> When that happens, be happy! Yes, leap for joy! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, their ancestors treated the ancient prophets that same way.*

### Sorrows Foretold

<sup>24</sup> *"What sorrow awaits you who are rich, for you have your only happiness now.*

<sup>25</sup> *What sorrow awaits you who are fat and prosperous now, for a time of awful hunger awaits you.*

*What sorrow awaits you who laugh now, for your laughing will turn to mourning and sorrow.*

<sup>26</sup> *What sorrow awaits you who are praised by the crowds, for their ancestors also praised false prophets.*

### Love for Enemies

<sup>27</sup> *"But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you.*

<sup>28</sup> *Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. <sup>29</sup> If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. <sup>30</sup> Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would like them to do to you.*

<sup>32</sup> *"If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! <sup>33</sup> And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! <sup>34</sup> And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.*

<sup>35</sup> *"Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. <sup>36</sup> You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.*

## Do Not Judge Others

<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.” <sup>38</sup> Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full – pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”

<sup>39</sup> Then Jesus gave the following illustration: “Can one blind person lead another? Won’t they both fall into a ditch?” <sup>40</sup> Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher.

<sup>41</sup> “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own?” <sup>42</sup> How can you think of saying, ‘Friend, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.

## The Tree and Its Fruit

<sup>43</sup> “A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. <sup>44</sup> A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. <sup>45</sup> A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.

## Building on a Solid Foundation

<sup>46</sup> “So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say?” <sup>47</sup> I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. <sup>48</sup> It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. <sup>49</sup> But anyone who hears and doesn’t obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.” (Luke 6:20-29, NLT)

**Luke 11:1-13 (NLT):** Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

<sup>2</sup> Jesus said, “This is how you should pray:

“Father, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. <sup>3</sup> Give us each day the food we need, <sup>4</sup> and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don’t let us yield to temptation.”

<sup>5</sup> Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: “Suppose you went to a friend’s house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, <sup>6</sup> ‘A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.’ <sup>7</sup> And suppose he calls out from his

bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.'<sup>8</sup> But I tell you this – though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.

<sup>9</sup> "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>11</sup> "You fathers – if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? <sup>12</sup> Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! <sup>13</sup> So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him." (Luke 11:1-13, NLT)

**Luke 11:34-36 (NLT):** "No one lights a lamp and then hides it or puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house.

<sup>34</sup> "Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when it is unhealthy, your body is filled with darkness. <sup>35</sup> Make sure that the light you think you have is not actually darkness. <sup>36</sup> If you are filled with light, with no dark corners, then your whole life will be radiant, as though a floodlight were filling you with light." (Luke 11:34-36, NLT)

**Luke 12:22-34 (NLT):** Then, turning to his disciples, Jesus said, "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life – whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup> Look at the ravens. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! <sup>25</sup> Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? <sup>26</sup> And if worry can't accomplish a little thing like that, what's the use of worrying over bigger things?

<sup>27</sup> "Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. <sup>28</sup> And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

<sup>29</sup> "And don't be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don't worry about such things. <sup>30</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. <sup>31</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need.

<sup>32</sup> "So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.

<sup>33</sup> "Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can

steal it and no moth can destroy it. <sup>34</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. (Luke 12:22-34, NLT)

**Luke 12:57-59 (NLT):** “Why can’t you decide for yourselves what is right? <sup>58</sup> When you are on the way to court with your accuser, try to settle the matter before you get there. Otherwise, your accuser may drag you before the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, who will throw you into prison. <sup>59</sup> And if that happens, you won’t be free again until you have paid the very last penny.” (Luke 12:57-59, NLT)

**Luke 18:1-8 (NLT):** One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. <sup>2</sup> “There was a judge in a certain city,” he said, “who neither feared God nor cared about people. <sup>3</sup> A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, ‘Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.’ <sup>4</sup> The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t fear God or care about people, <sup>5</sup> but this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!’” <sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said, “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. <sup>7</sup> Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don’t you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?” (Luke 18:1-8, NLT)

**John 6:28-29 (NLT):** They replied, “We want to perform God’s works, too. What should we do?” Jesus told them, “This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent.” (John 6:28-29, NLT)

**John 14:12-14 (NLT):** “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. <sup>13</sup> You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. <sup>14</sup> Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!” (John 14:12-14, NLT)

**John 15:7-8 (NLT):** “But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! <sup>8</sup> When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.” (John 15:7-8, NLT)

**John 16:23-27 (NLT):** “At that time you won’t need to ask me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name. <sup>24</sup> You haven’t done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy. <sup>25</sup> ‘I have spoken of these matters in figures of speech, but soon I will stop speaking figuratively and will tell you plainly all about the Father. <sup>26</sup> Then you will ask in my name. I’m not saying I will ask the Father on your behalf, <sup>27</sup> for the Father himself loves you dearly because you love me and believe that I came from God.’” (John 16:23-27, NLT)

**Romans 8:26-30 (NLT):** *And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. <sup>27</sup> And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. <sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. <sup>29</sup> For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.*  
(Romans 8:26-30, NLT)

**Philippians 4:4-7 (NLT):** *Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again – rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.*  
*<sup>6</sup> Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. <sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*  
(Philippians 4:4-7, NLT)

**Philippians 4:4-7 (the Message):** *Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute!*  
*Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. (Philippians 4:4-7, the Message)*

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NLT):** *Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NLT)*

**James 4:1-10 (NLT):** *What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? <sup>2</sup> You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet **you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.** <sup>3</sup> And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.*

*<sup>4</sup> You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup> Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. <sup>6</sup> And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (Proverbs 3:34)*

<sup>7</sup> So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. <sup>9</sup> Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor. (**James 4:1-10**, NLT)

**James 5:13-18 (NLT):** Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. <sup>14</sup> Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

<sup>16</sup> Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! <sup>18</sup> Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops. (**James 5:13-18**, NLT)

**Revelation 21:1-4 (NLT):** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

<sup>3</sup> I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." (**Revelation 21:1-4**, NLT)

## E.G. White References

To get some additional insights into the Sermon on the Mount, you may find the book *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings* helpful, as well as the *Desire of Ages*, Chapter 31.

**Desire of Ages, pages 667-668:** As yet the disciples were unacquainted with the Saviour's unlimited resources and power. He said to them, "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name." John 16:24. He explained that the secret of their success would be in asking for strength and grace in His name. He would be present before the Father to make request for them. The prayer of the humble suppliant He presents as His own desire in that soul's behalf. Every sincere prayer is heard in heaven. It may not be fluently expressed; but if the heart is in it, it will ascend to the sanctuary where Jesus ministers, and He will present it to the Father without one awkward, stammering word, beautiful and fragrant with the incense of His own perfection.

The path of sincerity and integrity is not a path free from obstruction, but in every difficulty we are to see a call to prayer. There is no one living who has any power that he has not received

*from God, and the source whence it comes is open to the weakest human being. "Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name," said Jesus, "that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it."*

*"In My name," Christ bade His disciples pray. In Christ's name His followers are to stand before God. Through the value of the sacrifice made for them, they are of value in the Lord's sight. Because of the imputed righteousness of Christ they are accounted precious. For Christ's sake the Lord pardons those that fear Him. He does not see in them the vileness of the sinner. He recognizes in them the likeness of His Son, in whom they believe.*

*The Lord is disappointed when His people place a low estimate upon themselves. He desires His chosen heritage to value themselves according to the price He has placed upon them. God wanted them, else He would not have sent His Son on such an expensive errand to redeem them. He has a use for them, and He is well pleased when they make the very highest demands upon Him, that they may glorify His name. They may expect large things if they have faith in His promises.*

*But to pray in Christ's name means much. It means that we are to accept His character, manifest His spirit, and work His works. The Saviour's promise is given on condition. "If ye love Me," He says, "keep My commandments." He saves men, not in sin, but from sin; and those who love Him will show their love by obedience.*

*All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us.*

*(Desire of Ages, pages 667-668)*

*Steps to Christ, page 93: Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him. (Steps to Christ, page 93)*

*Steps to Christ, page 97: If we come to God, feeling helpless and dependent, as we really are, and in humble, trusting faith make known our wants to Him whose knowledge is infinite, who sees everything in creation, and who governs everything by His will and word, He can and will attend to our cry, and will let light shine into our hearts. (Steps to Christ, page 97)*