

Hallowed Name

Balancing Honor and Fear

June 25, 2023

Today we're *feeling guilty* about prayer – I mean *learning*!



Did you see the Lord's Prayer in the news last week? Want to feel smart? Answer this *Jeopardy* question: **Matthew 6:9 says, "Our Father which art in heaven, [this] be Thy name."** Seems it *stumped* the panel!



Last Sunday we took a look at "our Father in heaven". Which is the first *half* of the first *line* of the Lord's Prayer. But being that *every* Sunday is our *Father's* day, I thought I'd follow it up by *finishing* the sentence. So, let's get right to feeling *guilty*, shall we? **Did you hallow our Father's name this week?** If *not*, you're not *alone*. We *know* that prayer is *right* and *true* and the *thing* to *do*; but, **prayer can feel like an intrusion in our busy, chaotic lives.** Most believers feel convicted *about* it, but even with good intentions, rarely make enough time *for* it ... because of those WMDs: weapons of mass *distraction*. *Facebook*. *Twitter*. *YouTube*. And *family*, *friends*, and *work*, and *Netflix*. **So we mostly settle for feeling guilty.** And if you want to feel *really* guilty, just recall that Paul wrote:



Rejoice *always*, pray without ceasing, in *everything* give thanks; for *this* is the will of *God* in Christ Jesus for *you*. – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NKJ



Well that's *short*, *sweet*, and seemingly *impossible*. Pray without *ceasing*? I don't think it means without taking a breath or eating or sleeping. Just that **we need to make prayer a part of the fabric of our daily life.** So how do you *greet* our Father when you *get up*? Overly *anxious*? Overly *formal*? Overly *mechanical*? Or overly *complacent*, overly *impatient*, or overly *demanding*? Cuz it's *usually* overly *something* – that's just how we *do* down here. Because **we're practicing righteousness while being made holy** (*sanctified*); (1 Jn 2:29, 3:7; Heb 10:14) remember that ol' *tugboat* and *tanker*?



Well this is *where* the Lord's ... *antidote* comes in handy. Because **the purpose of the Lord's Prayer is to prompt a profoundly relational daily conversation with a divine Dad.** Which is why it *must* be *personalized* in order to *work*. **It's like a heavenly Hallmark card to which we add our heartfelt expressions.** And so, when we *wake*, we should *affectionately* greet our *Father*, and *submit* to Him as *Lord* (lit. *Master*), and then take some *time* – in fact, until our *head* hits the *pillow* again – to *hallow* His *name*. He asks a *probing* question through the prophet *Malachi*, saying:

"A son *honors* his *father*, and a *servant* his *master*. [i.e. *Lord*] If then I am a *Father*, where is My *honor*? And if I am a *Master*, where is My *fear*?" – Malachi 1:6 ESV



That's the *stuff* that shows up *throughout the day in the way we use our words and actions*. But, before we go any *further*, let's *allow* our Father to *clear up* a couple of things. Like, **why does He refer to our relationship as a Master (i.e. Lord) and servant?** Any *comment*, Father? Well ...

You are *all sons of God* through *faith* in Christ Jesus ... [There is neither] *slave* nor *free*, *male* nor *female*, for you are *all one [son]* in *[the body of]* Christ Jesus. [And] If you *belong* to Christ, then *[with Christ]* you are Abraham's *seed*, and *heirs* ... [So] What I am saying is that *as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave*, although he *owns* the *whole estate*. [lit. as in the NKJ and ASV: "though he is *master/lord* of all", because] He is subject to *guardians* and *trustees* until the *time* set by his *father*. – Galatians 3:26-4:2 NIV

Oh. Okay. But **why do you want us to fear You?** We often *hear* that the fear of the Lord is an *awesome reverence*. And we can certainly *use* it that *way*. But **when we're using His Word, shouldn't we let Him define what He means when He uses the term?** Proverbs says:

[If you] search for [wisdom] as for hidden treasures; then you will *understand* the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. – Proverbs 2:4-5 NKJ

And sure enough, six chapters later, wisdom *appears*, compares herself to *treasures*, and says:



[Receive] *[the] knowledge [of God]* ... the fear of the Lord is to hate evil; – Proverbs 8:10, 13 NKJ



So *that's* how the *wisdom* of our Father *defines it!* Think we can *do* that? *Hate evil?* Because, to hallow *Him* is to **honor Him as His children** and to **hate evil in all its forms**. But now, hallowing *His name* is not the *same* as hallowing *Him*. **To hallow is to set apart and cherish as holy**. Which is why we refer to places like *Pearl Harbor* as *hallowed ground*. Or if you had a house fire, we might say you tried to save your most *hallowed* or *cherished keepsakes*. And so, of *course* we *cherish* and *revere* Him as our Father *enthroned* in heaven, but **hallowing His name specifically means to treat His name as holy**. So *why* is *that* so important? Because:



[All] the earth shall see that *you* are *called* by the *name* of the *Lord* – Deut 28:10 ESV

Hallowing isn't *only* about *expressing respect* for our *Father* and our *hatred of evil*; **we must also live a daily lifestyle that honors and exalts and glorifies our family name**. And so, we certainly:

Sing out the *honor* of His *name* – Psalm 66:2 NKJ

[And] *exalt* His name *together!* – Psalm 34:3 ESV

[Cuz] We are *called* by Your *name* – Jeremiah 14:9 NKJ

[But we must also] Make *known* His *deeds* ... [and] *glory* in His holy name – Psalm 105:1-3 NKJ

[So] *Shine* before *others*, that *they* may ... *glorify* your *Father* in heaven. – Matthew 5:16 NIV

Our family name is especially hallowed when we display His work in us to the world. And the opposite is sadly true as well. Like, when Moses pitched a public fit of disobedience, the Lord said:



“Because you did not *believe Me*, [i.e. *trust Me*] to *hallow Me* in the eyes of the [people] ... you shall not bring [them] into the land which I have given them.” – Numbers 20:12 NKJ



Same goes for *me* and *you* with the people He’s placed along *our* journey to the *Promised Land*. And if you haven’t noticed, **He takes distrust and disbelief very personal!** Because, **disobedience from distrust un-hallows His name.** And His name *will* be hallowed, *with* or *without* us.

[He warned His chosen people] “You shall not *profane* My holy name, but [even if you do] *I will be hallowed* among the children of Israel.” – Leviticus 22:32 NKJ

Even if He has to *hallow* it *himself!* Cuz **that’s how He draws the world to Himself.** Like He did when He *scattered* and then *gathered* the *rebellious* children of *Israel* from among the *nations*.

“When they *came* to the *nations* ... they profaned My holy name—when [the nations] said of *them*, ‘These are the people of the *Lord*, and yet they have gone out of *His* land.’ But I had *concern* for My holy name ... And I will *sanctify* [lit. *hallow*] My *great* name ... and the *nations* shall *know* that I am the *Lord* ... *when I am hallowed in you before their eyes* ... and bring you [back] into your *own* land. – Ezekiel 36:20-24 NKJ

So don’t dishonor His name in the eyes of those around you! Or you’ll *profane* the family name, and you might just be setting yourself up to be used as a *bad* example.

Love *must* be *sincere*. [So] *Hate* what is *evil*; [and] *cling* to what is *good*. – Romans 12:9 NIV



And **PRAY:** *hallowed* be Your name ... *today!* And then **PERSONALIZE** how you *feel* about being *called* by His name; and **how you intend to honor it ... today ... by clearly, lovingly, hating evil and putting Him on full display.** And then **PAUSE** to *hear* in what way you might need to *trust and obey throughout this day*, to be *made* more *holy* than *yesterday*. Like, when that waitress brings you a sandwich with *mayonnaise*, after you *specifically* told her to *hold* the *mayonnaise*: hallowed be the family name? Yes? That’s *good!* You’re *growing*. Or when that driver takes his *turn* at the *four-way stop*, when it’s *clearly* your turn: hallowed be Thy name? Not so *much?* That’s okay ... *if you’re growing.* **He’s given us His good name, and left us in charge of hallowing it in the eyes of our world,** whether at *home*, or at *work*, or at the *grocery store* (after you *gave* her the *coupon*, and then *noticed*, on the way to the *car*, that she *charged* you the *full price* ... *twice*), or at a very *poorly umpired* ball game. **We should “pray without ceasing”, in these situations: “Help me to hallow our name.”** We’re always hearing *Jesus’* and *God’s* name *profaned* by the *world*. Let ‘em. This is about *when* and *where* we profane our Father’s name in *any way* in *word* or *deed* around ‘em.

I *mostly* couldn't care *less* when it comes to the *world's G-ds* and *f-bombs*. Cuz you can't *clean a fish* before you *catch* it. But I *cringe* when I hear *believers casually* say "Oh my god!" *Not* because it *offends me*, but because **using His name *flippantly un-hallows Him***. *Isaiah* is one of the greatest *prophets* who ever *lived*. And yet, when he saw our Father enthroned in heaven, he cried out:



"Woe to me! ... I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King ... – Isaiah 6:5 NIV



In the presence of perfect *purity* and *holiness*, **he's instantly intensely aware of the contamination of his culture, and his own need, as one who knows truth, for God's mouthwash**. When I was young, my friend's mom's living room had white wall-to-wall carpet, white couches, and white drapes. We didn't *dare* go in *there*. That *room* was *terrifying*. Cuz we *hated* the thought of *staining* it. As we *consistently, privately*, begin our day *focused* on His *absolute holiness* and *separateness* from *sin*, **we become intensely aware of what in us un-hallows Him**. And that's *good* and *right* and *healthy*; because, **if it's un-hallowing Him, it's poisoning us**.



Trying to find *fulfillment* down *here* without *hallowing* our Father up *there* is a *deadly, self-centered pursuit* of *oblivious self-glorification*, that leaves a wake of *disappointment* and *regret*, because **there's no perfect, holy love or faithfulness down here other than what comes from up there**.

[And so] Not to *us*, O Lord, not to *us* but to *Your name* be the *glory*, because of *Your love* and *faithfulness*. – Psalm 115:1 NIV

[Jesus said] "I have come in *My Father's name*" – John 5:43 NKJ

[And] "I have made *Your name known* to them" – John 17:26 NAS

[Cuz] You, O Lord, *are* our *Father*, our *Redeemer* ... is *Your name*. – Isaiah 63:15-16 NIV

[So] Ascribe to the Lord the *glory due* His name – Psalm 29:2 ESV

And give *thanks* at the *remembrance* of His *holy name*. – Psalm 30:4 NKJ

And there's a *surprisingly striking connection* between *glorifying-by-hallowing* the NAME of God and *glorifying-by-hallowing* the WORD of God, because ...

His NAME *is* the WORD of God. – Revelation 19:13 NIV

It's time to begin to see His Word as hallowed ground where we *approach* our hallowed *Father to listen to trust to obey*. Because "**hallowed be Your name**" means "**trusted be Your Word**". So, **how often do you hallow Him when you start your day?** Cuz something happens when we set Him apart as the *first* and *foremost, highest* and *holiest* aspect of our *day*. **We wake up to the sobering reality that we're not the center of our universe; He is!** And with *that*, we're *far* more *likely* to *hallow* His name, throughout the *day*, in all the eyes of those *around us*, without *ceasing*.