

CLASS #3: SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Matthew 5: 38-42 Concerning Retaliation

³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I say to you: Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also, ⁴⁰ and if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, give your coat as well, ⁴¹ and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴² Give to the one who asks of you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

Matthew 5: 43 - 48 Love for Enemies

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ **But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,** ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 6: 7-18 Concerning Prayer

⁷ **When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do,** for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ **Pray, then, in this way:**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on 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 forever. Amen.)

“We do well not to pray the Lord’s Prayer lightly.

It takes guts to pray it at all. To speak those words is to invite the tiger out of the cage, to unleash a power that makes atomic power look like a warm breeze.” - F. Buechner

Prayer is part of our theological instincts, our “incurable God-sickness.” - Karl Barth

“Prayer is not asking for what you think you want, but asking to be changed in ways you can't imagine.” – Kathleen Norris

“Again and again I tell God I need help, and God says, ‘*Well, isn’t that fabulous? Because I need help too. So you go get that old woman over there some water, and I’ll figure out what we’re going to do about your stuff.*’” – Anne Lamott

**The Lord’s Prayer is not just a prayer;
it’s a vision for life in
Christ’s inbreaking kingdom.**

The Lord's Prayer should use the form
"Abba, Dear Father" as the opening line,
rather than the traditional form,
"Our Father, Who Art In Heaven"
as found in Matthew's Gospel.
- Jürgen Moltmann

Community of Grace Lord’s Prayer Version

Giver of all life, whose presence is holy,
may you come first in our hearts.
May all Creation become your community of grace,
and your desire be fulfilled throughout the earth,
as it is in your own heart.
Sustain us with the breath of life moment by moment.
Forgive us, and give us the gift of forgiveness.
Lead us past our temptations,
and save us from the power of the evil that would ensnare us.
For all that is, and all power, and all glory, come from you,
now and forever. Amen.