

# The Disciple's Prayer

(Matthew 6:9-13)

- Introduction:
1. As Jesus began his "Sermon on the Mount," he offered us six concrete examples of what the heart of a disciple should look like.
  2. This was accomplished by contrasting it with what they were seeing modeled by the religious leaders of the day.
  3. As if we don't already get his message, he continues in chapter 6 by giving us three more examples.

## I. An Overview of Chapter Six

- A. Jesus deals with motives, and shows they are just as important as outward actions.
  1. Charitable deeds.
  2. Prayer.
  3. Fasting.
- B. The battle we wage is a battle against pride; Are we truly serving God or simply feeding our egos?
  1. When they gave, it wasn't because their hearts were in tune with God's concern for the poor.
  2. When they prayed, it wasn't because they sought time with God.
  3. When they fasted, it wasn't to discipline their bodies in order to focus more fully on the work of God.

## II. The Disciple's Prayer

- A. I don't think that Jesus ever intended that this prayer be memorized and rotely repeated, but rather was to serve as a guideline for the disciple's prayer life.
- B. This prayer acknowledges:
  1. Relationship - "Our Father."
  2. Reverence - "Hallowed by your name."
  3. Resignation - "Your will be done."
  4. Reliance - "Give us this day our daily bread."
  5. Remission - "Forgive us our debts."
  6. Protection - "Lead us...deliver us."

- Conclusion:
1. This is a challenging prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray.
  2. It requires more than a superficial spirituality to perform.
  3. But that should come as no surprise, because the entire message, so far, in this sermon has been, "a righteousness that exceeds."