

Matthew 6:5-13

- ✓ We started with **"Father"** last time, and what a privilege for us! **1 John 3:1-2**; God has done something truly amazing, taken His enemies and turned them into His children.
 - ✓ We have been given the distinct privilege of calling Almighty God "Father"; that is astounding.
 - ✓ Effectively, God says, when you pray call me **"Dad"**
 - ✓ Such an endearing title, but the next phrase reminds us that we are no more divine even though we call Him Father nor is He any less divine.
 - ✓ "Hallowed be Thy Name" = the first request in all our prayers is that God's name be **Hallowed** or **Sanctified** or **be kept Holy**.
 - ✓ Mostly people don't see this as a request but just a simple statement,
 - ✓ As much as calling God father is directional and pivotal to our prayer, so is the first request.
 - ✓ Prayer isn't just from a child to his Father, but from disciple to his Lord.
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1. Most of the time we focus on how prayer works and not what the purpose of prayer is for us.

- ✓ We see prayer as a way to get what we want.
 - ✓ We see prayer as a way to get God to fulfill our dreams and ambitions, when, in fact, that is not what Jesus taught us.
 - ✓ **Prayer is really about coming into the presence of God and submitting to His will.**
 - ✓ The object of prayer is that God be glorified first and foremost.
 - ✓ All petitions, requests, supplications, and passion are subject to God's glory.
 - ✓ There is nothing more important than that God's name be Hallowed, i.e., be kept Holy.
 - ✓ Man-focused prayer is heresy, it was the prayer the disciples were raised with and taught. **Luke 18:11; Matthew 6:5**
 - ✓ Jesus taught a prayer style that begins with forgetting yourself. **Luke 9:23**
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2. "Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done"

- ✓ Do we ever need to learn how to pray Jesus' way!
 - ✓ He teaches us that the first notion of prayer is that we be able to say, "Your agenda and will are all that matter to me"
 - ✓ The purpose of prayer is to lift my soul up to my Father and seek His honor and glory, not to bend Him to my agenda.
 - ✓ You need to decide whose name is going to be hallowed, yours or God's.
 - ✓ God doesn't exist in Heaven to fulfill your dreams and give you what you want.
 - ✓ It's the first request because it serves as a warning: don't come seeking your goals, dreams, and ambitions.
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3. "Hallowed be Thy Name" is not a casual bit or religious routine talk.

- ✓ It's not a passing statement we owe to royalty like "long live the King"
 - ✓ It's a request and a goal of life.
 - ✓ Jesus is referring to God's name not God's title.
 - ✓ Name is not just a word; it stands for the whole character of a person.
 - ✓ We use it in a similar way in our culture: when someone brings false accusations or destroys a person's reputation, we say, "they ruined his name."
 - ✓ We bring lawsuits for defamation of character.
 - ✓ **Psalm 9:10** It's not referring to the word "God" in spoken language, but to those who know who He really is, His character, and His faithfulness.
 - ✓ **Psalm 7:17** Are we offering homage to a title? No, but to the Person who bears that title.
 - ✓ God's Name is the sum of all that He is: His personality, character, will, and authority.
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4. Hallowed is a strange word.

- ✓ We immediately think of Halloween, it means to hold or keep as holy, to set apart as different.
 - ✓ "God I'm coming recognizing your will and glory are more important than anything I want or have on my list."
 - ✓ God can't be any more Holy than what He already is. The cherubim never cease to say "Holy, Holy, Holy."
 - ✓ He just may not be displayed and understood as holy in the lost world we live in, so, when I come to Him in prayer, my first request is that I accomplish that.
 - ✓ Ahead of my needs, my requests, my desires, I want to God to be shown for who He is in my life no matter what that takes.
 - ✓ Jesus illustrates this beautifully: **John 12:27 "Save Me"** that would be the normal request
Verse 28 "Hallowed be Your name"
 - ✓ Which would have been better? For Jesus to not go to the cross or for God to be glorified?
 - ✓ That's why the preeminent request is that God be glorified because it is better than anything else we can ask.
 - ✓ Before I talk about my bread, my sin, my life, I desire Your glory to be displayed, this is always better than any request we can make.
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