

Recap Series so far - every great move of God always has prayer and humility at the heart of it.

Humility - Beatitudes, emptying ourselves of our stuff and filling it with what Jesus lays out here. All of these things are rooted in a life of humility. So as Jesus develops that character of humility in us, how does it affect how and what and even why we pray?

The past few weeks we have seen how this attitude of humility comes into play in our prayer lives. Matt talked a few weeks ago about how the position of all of our prayer should come out of humility (or at least it should be that way) and how the reason that God moved these angelic forces was because of that attitude. The position of humility Daniel had made it possible.

Last week Travis talked about the very common issue of worry and anxiety in our lives, and that prayer, rooted in humility is really the only way to have real peace. Let's be real, having peace in the world we live in is no small thing.

So we have seen the position of prayer and the power of prayer in humility. We have been in the thick of it, but for this morning I want us to pause, pull back slightly and examine something that I don't think we often do when it comes to how we pray. I want us to examine our motives behind our prayers. Our motivation — what the focus of our prayers is. I think this is so important because our motivation behind what we pray and how we pray makes a huge difference. In fact if we have incorrect motivation, we won't see God move the way that I think and hope we want him to. But it is easy to get there (to have incorrect motivation).

Have you ever done something so many times that you have forgotten why you even do it?

CANADA MILK

WE DO THE SAME IN OUR PRAYER LIFE

All types of things God tells us to pray for

- For our needs
- For those around us
- He says to give thanks
- To ask for things

But even though God lays out many different things to pray for, if we look deeper, we see that the motives behind these prayers are all the same. But it's something we don't think a lot about and have to be really intentional to make happen.

And to find what our motivation behind our prayers should be, let's go back to the blueprint that Jesus gives us for when we pray. It's not a coincidence or mistake that before Jesus even gets rolling, what is the first thing He says? "Our Father, Who is in Heaven, hallowed be Your name."

"Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name.
10 Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread,
12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
but Yours is the kingdom, the power, the glory forever amen.

If you were like me at all, someone who has been around church a lot, if I'm honest, this part of the prayer was really just to get the wheels turning so that I could memorize it so that maybe our Sunday school class could get a pizza party or something. Right? Anyone feel me on that?

But the more we look at this, the more we challenge ourselves, the more we see that this isn't just an introduction to how we should pray, it's the whole **reason** we should pray, the motivation behind what we pray and what we do afterwards.

I know the word *hallowed* means absolutely nothing to many of us so let's define it. In essence, when we start our prayers with "Our Father, Who is in Heaven, hallowed be Your name," we are saying "God, Who is above all and in all and loves us, Your name be made great in what's about to go down."

But how often, if we are honest, is that the **true** motivation behind why we pray? I'll be the first to say that the amount of times that fear, worry, selfishness, comfort, or security motivate my prayers far exceeds a genuine desire for God's name to be made great in my life and in my words.

That's a pretty specific way to start all of this, isn't it? When we are motivated by God's name being made great in our prayers, it affects how we pray and it affects what happens afterwards.

In fact, we see elsewhere that big, unprecedented, mind blowing things happen when we pray motivated by the greatness of God's name.

There is a really cool example of this in the Old Testament that we are going to look at together this morning. We find it in book of Exodus chapter 32 and we are going to start reading in verse 7 but let's set up the story here so we are all on the same page.

STORY LEADING UP:

- People were in slavery.
- God used a man named Moses to free them and put His power on display.
- God begins to take them on this journey to this amazing land that God had promised their ancestors.
- They had seen God do all these amazing things.
- We come to this story where they make a pit stop at Mount Salani.
- God and Moses are having a think tank up there on top of the mountain and God is giving instruction.
- The people get restless.

- They start to wonder where this guy Moses went.
- So to make a long story short they corner the second in command, a guy named Aaron and say, "Hey we need some gods." So Aaron caves to peer pressure and tells them to bring him all their gold. They melt it down and create this idol, this super awe inspiring, impressive, majestic baby cow.

7 And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" 9 And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. 10 Now therefore let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you."

11 But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people, whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent did He bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the Earth'? Turn from Your burning anger and relent from this disaster against Your people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.'" 14 And the Lord relented from the disaster that He had spoken of bringing on his people.

Theology - nit picky. We can get stuck in it but that's not the important part right now.

But here is the statement and truth that matters: A prayer motivated by the greatness of God's name brings about great change — in us and in this world

Clarification on bringing God glory — He's not some hairy Italian dude looking for tribute. When we say that our goal is to bring greatness to God's name, when Moses prayed this, it was so that the world could see God for Who He really was. Because He is good, He is worthy, He loves like no one else. We want everyone to see a clear picture of Who He is in our lives and in our prayers.

So when we talk about bringing Him glory, that is what we mean.

Could you imagine what would happen if we had a church this size, that was 100% motivated by the greatness of God's name? Could you imagine how it would change your life personally if that were the case? For so long so many of us have just been praying with our own name in mind. What would happen if we changed to have God's name in mind?

I believe it will change how we pray!

When we are motivated and focused on God's name instead of our own in our prayers, it sheds a very different light on what we are doing. Check this out, let's look again at the Lord's Prayer and consider the motivation behind those words.

This motivation brings about great change, in our lives and through our lives.

When we pray motivated by the greatness of God's name in our lives, it changes how we pray, our attitude toward prayer. There is no better more practical way to choose humility than to choose this focus in our prayer

Lord's Prayer- motivated by us vs. motivated by HIM

READ TWICE WITH TWO DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES - WHAT IT WOULD LOOK LIKE

Now I made these examples extreme on purpose to show the distinction, but how often has our heart been pretty close to this? How different would our lives be if we prayed with God's name in mind?

So this shift in thinking changes how we pray, it also changes what our expectations in prayer are.

It changes our expectations in prayer. This is hard. Up to this point it's all been nice and theoretical, but what happens when we start to deal with the actual consequences and ramifications of this? Because this is what I am finding to be true: When we pray with the greatness of God's name as our focus, we need to be willing to hold the outcomes pretty loosely. Because instead of praying with what we want or what we think is best, we are now praying that the outcome of our situations is what brings the most greatness to God's name, the thing that makes His true character most known.

The state of our country. It may take this country crashing and burning to wake the church up to revival. Are we ok with that?

Noah - our foster son story.

It's hard — I'm not saying it isn't, but if we are committed to this, praying with the focus being God's name made great in our lives, then we have to be pretty open handed with the outcome and that takes a lot of trust. I promise you this, it speaks volumes to a world who is watching.

PEOPLE NOTICED

This is it, this is the next step for us, and it's not a theory, it's real. God gave me a picture of what this kind of prayer looks like just a few weeks ago in Peru. Peru story.

Now these are both difficult things right? Kind of a total overhaul rewiring of how we think about prayer. But I want to encourage you this morning too. When we pray this way, motivated by the greatness of God's name in our lives, big things do happen. We might not always understand it, but change will come. We see it in this passage so clearly.