

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Kapp – “Exploring The Lord’s Prayer” Adult Education – May 5, 12, 19

Helpful Articles:

Rowan Williams “Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread”

This speech, given to an international group, considers the prayer through the lenses of the daily bread petition.

<http://meh.religioused.org/web/lords-prayer/>

Abraham Joshua Heschel “On Prayer”

This was also a speech, I think, on the general topic of prayer. Heschel, an orthodox rabbi, was serious about spiritual disciplines.

<https://opensiddur.org/miscellanea/pedagogy/on-prayer-by-abraham-joshua-heschel-1969/>

Musa Dube “Praying the Lord’s Prayer in the Global Economic Era”

This is an article on the entire prayer, written by a prominent Biblical scholar in Botswana, and it offers a perspective quite different from our own.

https://www.academia.edu/37660911/Praying_the_Lords_Prayer_in_the_Global_Economic_Era

Variations on The Lord’s Prayer:

Mary Hess collection of LP variations

<http://meh.religioused.org/web/lords-prayer/>

LP variations from the Eight Day Community

<https://8th-day.org/lords-prayer-translations-paraphrases>

Another collection of LP variations (this is a less disciplined collection than the other two)

<https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=360>

Lord’s prayer sung in Aramaic. I’m not sure Jesus pronounced his Aramaic quite like this, as languages change over the course of 2000 years, but this gives you an opportunity to get closer to the original, linguistically.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAEIrP4MFBE>

1)

“The kingdom of God: this is the message of hope and joy proclaimed by Jesus. . . . it constitutes. . . the verbal matrix of Jesus’ message. “Kingdom” does not refer here to a territory but to the divine authority that is now in this world, transforming the old into new, the unjust into just, and sickness into health.”

Leonardo Boff

2)

“Praying the Lord’s Prayer in the present age of globalization means heeding the call to ‘turn to God and rejoice in hope’ – hope because if Christians understand themselves as God’s children and partners then they can be committed to bringing God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven; they can be dedicated to maintaining God’s creation sacred.” *Musa Dube*

3)

“While insisting that the Kingdom was a gift, Jesus also reminded people that it was our task and its arrival would demand that people take sides; that they decide in favour of the Kingdom and give up allegiance to other kingdoms based on privilege, possessions, success and exploitation.” *Mattam Joseph, S.J.*

From Abraham Heschel *On Prayer*

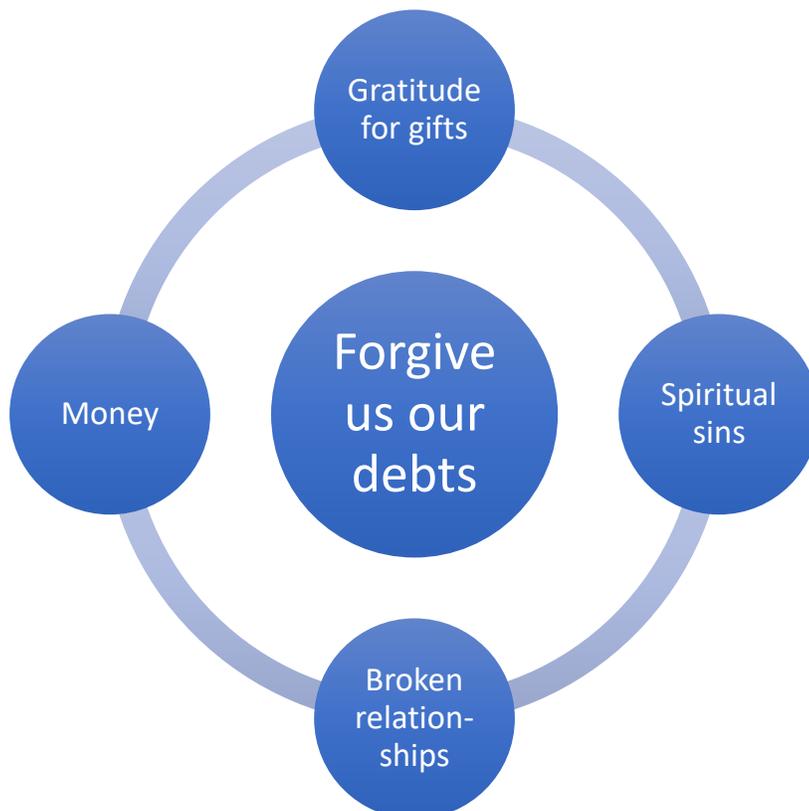
Prayer is not a stratagem for occasional use, a refuge to resort to now and then. It is rather like an established residence for the innermost self. All things have a home, the bird has a nest, the fox has a hole, the bee has a hive. A soul without prayer is a soul without a home. . . . At home I have a Father who judges and cares, who has regard for me, and when I fail and go astray, misses me. I will never give up my home.

We pray in order to pray. Prayer is a perspective from which to behold, from which to respond to, the challenges we face. Man in prayer does not seek to impose his will upon God he seeks to impose God's will and mercy upon himself. Prayer is necessary to make us aware of our failures, backsliding, transgressions, sins.

To pray is to open a door, where both God and soul may enter. Prayer is arrival, for Him and for us. To pray is to overcome distance, to shatter screens, to render obliquities straight, to heal the break between God and the world.

Prayer is meaningless unless it is subversive, unless it seeks to overthrow and to ruin the pyramids of callousness, hatred, opportunism, falsehoods

We pray because the disproportion of human misery and human compassion is so enormous. We pray because our grasp of the depth of suffering is comparable to the scope of perception of a butterfly flying over the Grand Canyon. We pray because of the experience of the dreadful incompatibility of how we live and what we sense. Dark is the world to me, for all its cities and stars. If not for my faith that God in His silence still listens to a cry, who could stand such agony?



Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

What does forgiveness mean to you, when you pray this petition?

What is the connection between God's forgiveness and our capacity for forgiveness?