



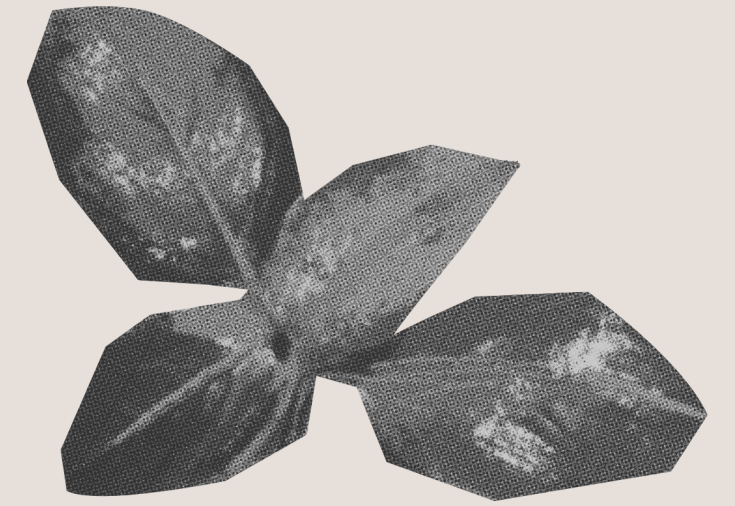
Lesson 3

TEMPLE SHIFT

THE MODEL PRAYER PART A



OBJECTIVES



At the end of the session, you should:

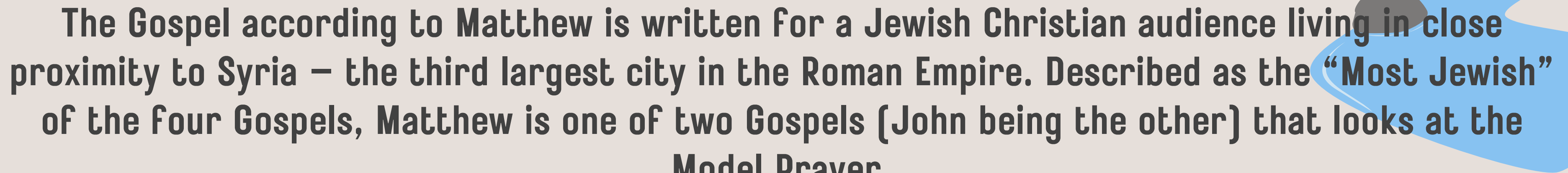
1

Understand the Model Prayer as a shift from restrictive Jewish convention to inclusive, intimate engagement with the Father, offered through Jesus Christ.

know that calling the Father in Heaven invokes His presence wherever you are.

2





The Gospel according to Matthew is written for a Jewish Christian audience living in close proximity to Syria – the third largest city in the Roman Empire. Described as the “Most Jewish” of the four Gospels, Matthew is one of two Gospels (John being the other) that looks at the Model Prayer.

At the time when Matthew wrote there were two major groups in the community – the Jewish Christians and the local Pharisaic group, who were in conflict over what should be the future of Judaism (Mellowes, 1998). The Pharisees were Jesus’ main opponents throughout his life and Jesus goes upon a mountain to teach the Ethics of the Kingdom, emphasizing purity of heart and the basic standard of Christian righteousness. Matthew, like John presents Jesus as the fulfilment of the Temple and its associated rituals. The Temple is presented as the locus of divine presence and the place for religious rituals, concerned with forgiveness of sins and restoration of human’s relationship with God through celebrations, prayer, praise, and worship. Jesus taught against the backdrop of the Temple understood by Jews as a physical place where believers gather to invoke the presence of God.

Matthew 6 : 5– 8 Caution against ostentatious and insincere prayer

6:5 “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think 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. ^

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TELL US



St Matthew 6: 9 – 13 (The Model Prayer)

9 “This, then, is how you should pray:

“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 today our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation,[a]
but deliver us from the evil one.[b]’

14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you,
your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not
forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

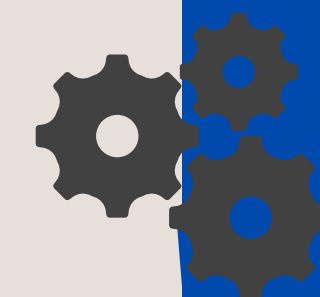


**WHAT DOES THE
BIBLE TELL US**



The Lord's Prayer is preceded by Jesus' warning not to make a fanfare when they give alms nor practice their righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. Jesus then offers them a structural framework or Template to pattern. The Structure of the Model Prayer reflects:

- a. addressing God: acknowledging the ultimate, yet transcendental nature of the relationship between God and the believer. "Our Father" or "Our Father in heaven".**
- b. The sacredness and sovereignty of the Father! "Hallowed be Your name", a declaration of reverence and praise for God's holiness.**
- c. The coming of God's Kingdom: Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" expresses the desire for God's rule to be established on earth or a longing for God's divine order and justice to prevail.**



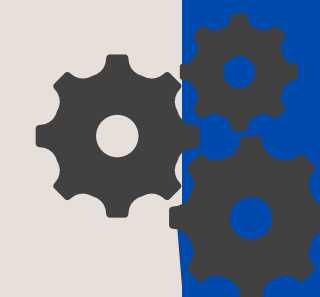


(d) Provision: “Give us this day our daily bread” acknowledges our dependence on God for daily physical nourishment and spiritual sustenance.

(e) Forgiveness: “forgive us our debt as we forgive our debtors” indicating the importance of our conditional commitment to seek from God and extend to others.

(f) Deliverance from Evil: “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil”. Guidance and protection from harmful influences both spiritual and worldly that come as Kingdom benefit.

(g) Doxology: “For Yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen” emphasizing God’s sovereignty and eternal glory.





A more basic, but equally accurate way to look at the structure of the Model Prayer is the 6 Ps.

Praise: Our Father

Petition: Your kingdom come.

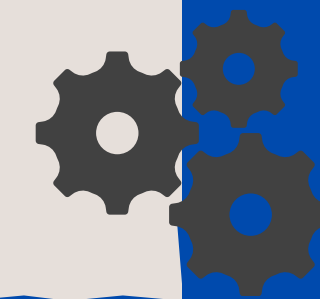
Provision: Give us this day our daily bread.

Pardon: Forgive us.

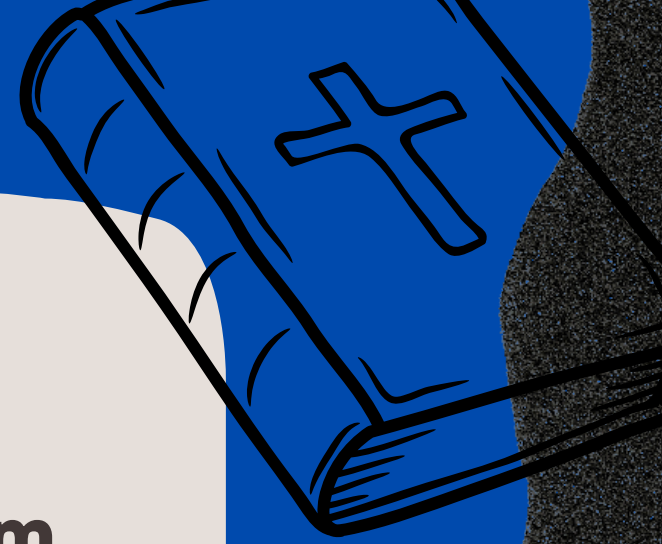
Power: For Yours is the Kingdom,

**Praise: You have the power and glory
forever, amen.**

Spoken by Jewish Believers wherever they were served to foreshadow and underscore the significance of Jesus'



death on the cross as the medium through which Jesus embodied the Temple and became the 'access' point through which they could invoke the Father to meet them in their location and situation. This was clearly a shift in the conventional practice of "going to the temple" to meet with God. God, through the Temple became readily accessible requiring only the believer's 'faith'. This is perfectly aligned with the shift from the Law (work oriented) to Grace (faith accessed) that pervade Jesus' teachings.



Jesus

LESSON 3 QUIZ

Matching

Line up the words on Column A with their meaning on Column B OR Take the Flash Card Challenge:
Look at the meaning on each slide and guess the answer; then check to see how many you got correct.

A

___ forgiven for an error of
offense in thought or
deed/action

___ earnest request

___ amount supplied for use

___ Express warm approval
or admiration of someone
or something

B

A Praise

B Power

C 11: 2 - 4

D Praise

**___ might, strength, force - not
just capacity to do but actual
achievement of such magnitude
that inspires or amazes others.**

__E__ Sovereignty

**___ growing reverence for who God is;
imparting true wisdom to us**

_F__ Pardon

___ part of Christ's sermon on the

_G__ 6: 9 - 13

___ from belief or trust

_H__ confidence

___ The Disciple's Prayer runs from

_I__ Atonement

___ Luke's version of the Model/

_J___ Our Father

Disciple's prayer, Luke _____

**____ reconciling of God and man by the
Death of Jesus Christ**

____ supreme power

**____ invokes to meet at location and
point of need**

**____ strongest opponents of Christ
throughout New Testament**

**____ locus of divine presence, Christ
is the embodiment.**

K Provision

L mount

M Petition

N Pharisees

O Temple