

Reflection Questions: Matthew 6:5-13

For the message, "Hallowed Be Your Name" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on March 17, 2019

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Matthew 6:5-13

5 "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. **8** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **9** Pray then like this:

"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.

A summary of the message: Jesus invites us into a relationship with God that entails the privilege of addressing and experiencing the Creator of the universe as "Father." Therefore we can pray about anything and everything that might be on our hearts. But given that we could pray about anything, are there some things we should be praying about? Jesus would say, *Yes, your prayers should prioritize the hallowing of God's name.*

Key Points:

- To hallow means to consider holy or consecrated (set apart); sacred or revered.
- The name Jesus gave us to use in this prayer is Father. Therefore Jesus invites us to fill our prayers with an earnest desire that God's name as "Father" would be treasured above all else.
- We hallow God our Father's name by believing in Jesus his Son, who gives us the right to be children of God.
- We hallow our Father's name by answering this prayer with our lives.
- We hallow God our Father's name by praying that the world would come to know him as Father.

Key Quotes:

John Piper: "The plea, 'Hallowed be your name,' is the only petition in the Lord's Prayer where an explicit act of the human heart is named. The act of hallowing. All the other petitions serve this. The kingdom comes for this. God's will is done for this. Daily bread is for this. Forgiveness is for this. Escape from temptation and evil is for this."

Let's get started...

- What is your biggest obstacle to filling your prayers with a desire for our Father's name to be treasured?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- How does this text help me to understand the good news of Jesus?
- How does this text clarify what God wants to do in my life?
- When I forget that one of the most important prayers I can pray is "Father...hallowed be your name", what lies fill that vacuum?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- How does this text help us to understand the kind of church we want MHC to be? In other words, how would we know if we are hallowing God?
- What is the cost if we are not transformed by this text? In other words, what is lost if we ignore the message?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- What does God want to do not merely for us or in us, but through us? In other words, how does this passage serve as an invitation for us to join God's mission?
- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith? What kind of new life / future in Christ is this text calling our city to experience?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

- _____
- _____
- _____