

# Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

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## April 24, 2016 – How Did You Do That?

Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them to pray...when Jesus prayed, things happened and he didn't have to go on and on.

### ***Matthew 6:5-13***

***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.*** This is not so much of a problem for our culture. If you stand on the street corner praying people are going to think you're a freak! The point was, they on purpose put themselves in a position so people could see them. They prayed only to be seen by people. For us it would be only praying in public. ***Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.*** (These people looked really good when they prayed.)

***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.*** Just knowing God sees can make all the difference.

***7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.*** They thought if I just say enough of the right words, I can bend God's will towards mine.

Do you really want a God you can convince to do something?

***8 Do not be like them, for ... your Father knows what you need before you ask him.***

***9 “This, then, is how you should pray: “ ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,*** Hallowed=God has no equal and must be put first...

Main point – Order determines space – the order you pray things is important.

Why would we not put God in his proper place? Maybe we don't know what the heavy items are in the grocery bag of our life. What are the big items of my life and what would I have to rearrange in my life to make sure the big items go in first?

The Bible clearly teaches that the God rock has to be first in our lives. What and Who are most important to you?

**Psalm 119:10**

***I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.***

**Proverbs 28:5 *Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand it fully.***

And you will worry less because you will have invited God into the equation.

Order determines space so where is God in your order of things to do this week?

**10 your kingdom come**, when you pray before you get to what you want, recognize it's God's kingdom. I have a kingdom, the problem with most people in my kingdom is that they don't know I'm the king!

***...your will be done,***

***on earth as it is in heaven.*** This whole section is about surrendering your will to God's will.

Provision

**11 Give us today our daily bread.**

**Matthew 8:31-33 31 *So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'***

**32 *For the pagans* (those who live like there is no God) ***run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them*** (do we really believe God knows what we need)**

**33 *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.***

The most practical way I know of to seek God first is to start the day in some way letting him know he is the first thing your gonna seek. Martin Luther – “pray and let God worry.”

Everyone is seeking something first.

The things you talk about the most, what you spend money on...

The things that you ask the most questions about...

Ask the people closest to you and they will know.

The Bible says it's alright to seek after all those things just not first.

You will not be less productive if you put God first.

Ex. Jesus only ministered 3 years and he is a household name over 2000 years after he died ...he put God first.

God won't force his way into your life. He quietly knocks, he won't kick down the door.

What does that look like in your life to seek God first every morning?  
Here is what happens...when you begin your day saying YES to God, it will be easier to say NO to the things that separate you from God.

## Pardon

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

Five things to think about regarding forgiveness...

1. Don't wait until asked to forgive (choose to) many times the person will not ever ask or they don't even know they need to. The ball is always in your court. They don't even have to acknowledge it for it to work.
2. Forgiveness is specific, not general. (I forgive you for \_\_\_\_\_ ) we make kids say what they are sorry for. Sometimes we need a visual aid to help us (empty chair), write them down like a bill and write cancelled. Look at them later. Visual reminder of the process.
3. Forgiveness is the first step to emotional healing. (the more you hurt the more sensitive you are, and your very self-centered). When I had a torn ligament in my knee some things happened...I don't want you to touch it (defensive), and I was very sensitive about it. I became self-centered about my leg. (I didn't want to hear about my kids' boo-boos), but I know the doctor has to hurt it to make it better...the same thing happens emotionally. So my point is forgiveness may make things worse for a short time but it is required for healing. **Time does not heal all hurts, but the great physician does.**
4. Forgiving does not mean acting as if nothing ever happened. You set up boundaries (like the door on your house, you want to control who gets in, with neighborhood kids) we tell kids to be nice to everyone, but we don't want them to spend time with everyone.  
The difference between a wall and boundaries...walls separate until they change (unforgiveness and revenge), boundaries separate just enough so that a relationship can be possible in the future.

#### Boundaries

1. Activities – certain things we can't do together
2. Communication – things you can't talk about for awhile
3. Time – set up boundaries on the amount of time you can spend

The goal in these three boundaries is that over time you can remove all boundaries and have the relationship restored.

Flip side – what if you had hurt someone deeply, our tendency is to act like nothing ever happened once we are forgiven, respect those boundaries in other people.

5. Forgiveness allows us to see our own faults and weaknesses.  
Until we forgive we think we are blameless, once we forgive we will begin to see how we are guilty of some of the same things at other times.

At the cross, we lost our right to refuse to forgive.

### Protection

***13 And lead us not into temptation,*** we can find it all by ourselves...  
***But deliver us from the evil one.*** Prayer is about staying away from sin not emptying the bucket so we can fill it up again.

*Will you get alone at some point every day  
And tell God how great He is  
Surrender your Kingdom and will to HIS then  
Ask for Provision, Pardon and Protection.*

When you do the first two, you will be able to give God the time he needs to accomplish the things you want and need, because God sees the big picture, we don't know what God is up to in the big context of the world...

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