



SERIES: Walking with Jesus
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Friday, December 1, 2023
Scripture: Matthew 6:11, James 1:17
TITLE: But I Don't Need God

I feel kind of ashamed right now. I was hungry at home, so I opened up my cupboard doors in our kitchen. We have roughly 10 shelves filled with canned goods, cereal fixings, chips, dips, and soups. But I thought to myself, “Good grief! Nothing to eat.” So I moved to my fridge, and it was full of all sorts of nutritious options. But again, I thought, “There is nothing here that looks good.”

Maybe this sounds a lot like you. But this experience is an anomaly when we consider the world's population. That's why today's teaching from Jesus on prayer may seem out-of-date for us but is still relevant in more ways than one.

Here is what Jesus said in Matthew 6:11 (CSB). He said for us to pray this way:

“Give us today our daily bread.”

This request isn't very American, is it? We are very independent. So for us, this request probably seems possibly offensive and, if not that, at least pointless. So we probably don't need this in our model for prayer, right? Wrong.

Jesus says, “Give us today our daily bread.”

Who is to give us this provision? Our Heavenly Father. This rightly recognizes God as our provider. James 1:17 says, “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.” All and every good thing comes from God.

Jesus said, Give us this day our daily bread. “Give” recognizes our need. It acknowledges our total dependence upon God. This is the struggle of all mankind: to think we are gods and that we can do it all on our own. We, as His children, know better and need to act on it. So this request rightly acknowledges God's provision in the past and present and rightly has us depending on it for the future.

Jesus here says, “Give us this day our daily bread.” Bread recognizes our need for God to provide for our physical needs. Bread here is far beyond food. Bread encompasses all that we need to live. So that includes food, life itself, a place to sleep, clothing, peace of mind, etc.

Friends, God is under obligation as our Heavenly Father to provide for us our daily needs. But are we asking Him? If we aren't, we're probably in greater need than we realize. God has promised to meet our needs. But friends, He hasn't promised us our wants.

Jesus said, "Give us this day our daily bread." This recognizes God's timing is best. We so often ask and expect God to provide us long-term health and wealth when we are to be relying on Him daily. Each day, He has promised to meet our needs, and our willingness to ask is proof of our belief in Him and our need for Him.

So this is my challenge for you today: Ask God for your needs and then live contently in them. Try this even for one day. Sure, you can order a pizza because you don't want that canned soup. But ask God for the contentment because your need is met. And live in that provision.

When we ask and live within His provision, it displays to the world we really love and trust our heavenly Father. It is in those moments we win the day.