

The Followers' Prayer

I just did 'google' searches for a Mother's Prayer, a Farmer's Prayer, an Athlete's Prayer and a Geek's Prayer. I got major hits for each of those. I even found the 'Home Bike Mechanic's Prayer....*God, grant me the courage to fix what I can The money to let somebody else fix what I can't And the wisdom to know the difference.*

I could have written that last one myself. I was looking for those prayers because it occurred to me a little while ago, that there is a prayer for everyone who follows Jesus. It is the Follower's Prayer.

Jesus gave it to his followers when they asked him to teach them how to pray. They had seen how much he prayed and how much it helped him.

Our usual practice is to recite it the way we find it in our Bibles. That is helpful, but I have started to try something a bit different and am really enjoying it. Jesus said, "When you pray.....", That could mean, "at your usual prayer time", but couldn't it also mean, "when you are faced with the situations that bring you to your knees, pray along these lines"? That's different than "saying an 'Our Father'".

Let me show you what I mean.

Start with a situation or a person that is on our hearts. I have a friend in a poor, far away country. His name is Mario. If I pray the Followers' Prayer for him I might pray like this:

Our Father, father of Mario and father of me, you love each of your kids more than any earthly father. Thank you that you love us both.

Our Father in the heavens (*this is what Jesus literally said, "the heavens" is all the space around me, from the ground, on up and out into the universe*) you are here, closer to me than to anyone else, and you are closer to Mario than anyone, you are with him!

Hallowed be your name... dear Father, I hope that you will receive more and more glory in Mario's life and in his family and in his work. May more people be impressed with you because of him. May that be true of me too.

Your kingdom come, Father, may Mario live a life of obedience to you, may the places where he has influence be influenced by you. In this messed up world, help all of us to live life in your way.

Your will be done, on earth as it is in the heavens... (*God's will is what makes him happy. Jesus tells us in Luke 15 that there is a party in heaven when what is lost is found, especially people*) May Mario help others to know your love, and may I do the same thing right here where I live.

Give us this day, the bread we need for today. (*Bread is any stuff we need for our lives*) Father, thank you for providing all that I need and more. You know what life is like for Mario. Give him enough to meet his needs and the needs of his family. Help me to find ways to share with him and with others.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Dear Father, guide my steps away from temptations. I am not very strong. Keep Mario strong too in the temptations that surround him. Help Mario and me to keep trusting you and to keep giving you all the glory.

So there it is, the 'Followers' Prayer'. I think our Lord, Jesus meant for us to take it out and use it. Try praying it in the situations that bring you to prayer. May you receive grace and strength and peace and courage and wisdom, just as Jesus did!

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