



Links Players

Teach Us To Pray - Lesson 4: Daily Bread

Give us each day our daily bread.... (Luke 11: 3, ESV)

Golfers are normally aware of idioms unique to our sport. If not, we quickly learn golf’s allusions, analogies, and metaphors. For example, if someone says about a two-man team, “They ham and egged it,” we know that when one partner was out of the hole, his partner saved the day with a par or birdie.

Whether it’s a best-ball or alternate-shot format, we depend on one another to win. I suppose we could also argue that this applies in individual formats too.

It’s no secret that Jordan Spieth popularized the plural pronoun “we” when referring to his caddie, coach, and family after winning more than a few PGA events. Jordan was stating the obvious — he depended on others to succeed.

What, if anything, does this have to do with asking the Father for “daily bread?” Jesus is teaching the disciples that the heart of prayer is a sense of dependence—our dependence on the Father. It’s a realization that we depend on him for everything. When we look to the Father, through the Son, by the power of the Spirit for our needs, we honor him.

The poster child for pride is someone who lives life without a profound sense of dependence on the Father—the One who sustains heaven and earth. The corollary to this is equally true—it requires a modicum of humility to admit our dependence. And the one who cultivates a sense of dependence consistently goes to the Father in prayer.

When Jesus teaches us to ask the Father for daily bread, he is not merely giving us a phrase to recite; he is giving us the recipe for the life that flourishes—a life that daily looks to heaven for wisdom, guidance, and provisions for our pilgrimage through this world.

Often the discussion revolves around the following important questions: What is our daily bread? Is Jesus addressing our physical or spiritual needs? If we answer that question by looking at the entirety of Scripture, we soon discover that Jesus is talking about both.

It was Adam and Eve who thought that they could understand the world and their place in it without reference to God. They presumed that they could live independent of God. They “believed the lie.”

As the Puritan scholar, Matthew Henry, once wrote, “The man who lives without prayer, lives without God in the world.” He, of course, didn’t mean that in a wooden sense. He meant that those who fail to depend on the Father through prayer miss out on the sweetness of a “felt nearness” of his presence through the rough and tumble of life.

Prayer – Father, give us this day our daily bread.

READING - Romans 1: 18-25; Acts 14: 8-18; Acts 17: 20-33.

OPENING QUESTIONS: Have you played in a two man, best-ball format, or an alternate-shot format? Have you experienced being out of the hole and your partner making par or birdie to keep you in the match?

1. In Romans 1: 18-25, Paul teaches us that apart from Christ all mankind is under God’s wrath. He explains why by describing three exchanges. What are they?

2. In Acts 14: 8-18, Paul is in Lystra. A miracle occurs. When the crowd attempts to worship Paul and Barnabas, Paul informs them of certain things about God. What do we learn about God in verses 15-18?

3. In Acts 17: 20-33, Paul is in Athens. He finds the city full of idolatry. What do we learn about God in this text? List them. What do we learn about humanity apart from Christ? What does God command the Athenians to do? What was their response?
