

Sunday, April 24, 2022
"Meet Your King"
Summary of How to Pray and Live
Matthew 6:9-15
Wayne Shelton

The 'Lord's Prayer' was given by Jesus as a model of what genuine Christian prayer is like. It is a model of real prayer, the Christian prayer, in distinction to the prayers of Pharisees and pagans. To be sure, one could recite the Lord's Prayer either hypocritically (Pharisaic) or mechanically (pagan) or both. But if we mean what we say, then the Lord's Prayer is the divine alternative to both forms of false prayer. Thus, Christian prayer is seen in contrast to its non-Christian alternatives. It is God-centered (concerned for God's glory) in contrast to the self-centeredness of the Pharisees (preoccupied with their own glory). And it is intelligent (expressive of thoughtful dependence) in contrast to the mechanical incantations of the pagan. Therefore, when we come to God in prayer, we come thoughtfully, humbly, and trustfully like little children to their father. Moreover, the 'Lord's Prayer' also serves as an outline of the whole Christian life by providing certain 'fixed points' of concern for the family of God. It underlines life's priorities and helps us to get them into focus.