

The Our Father Sermon. 24/07/2022 DJK MVLC

Matthew 6:9,10

Jesus said, this is how you should pray:

*“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

This description of a recent event is as true as true can be.

Friday was a busy morning. I'm getting ready to go to work, Ilona is getting ready to go to work, and it's a busy time. But no matter how busy life is there's always time to say goodbye, give a kiss, and say, "I love you". That's what you do - don't you?

I was just about to do this when she yelled from the bedroom: *“that toast in the toaster is mine”* – with a threatening emphasis on the word “mine”. Wow! I'm sure she thinks, “What's hers is hers and what's mine is hers”

Do you have yours and mine? What ever happened to “ours”?

Growing up with 2 sisters there was never anything that was “ours” Even when we were given something to share – what could have been “ours” soon turned to “mine”.

Granny would give us kids a bottle of Woodroffe Snowtop to share – easy you'd think? It would be poured into three glasses – all good - but whose glass is whose? The levels were measured to nearest thousands of an inch. And the biggest was mine – no it was hers – no it wasn't it was mine.

What ever happened to “ours”. “Her car hit mine the other day” – not, “our cars hit” – no, “hers hit mine”. The word “our” is embracing and loving – “mine”, “hers”, “his”, those words are dividing – selfish words.

They asked Jesus how they should pray. He answers by giving an example.

‘Our Father in Heaven... The very first word is “Our” – “Our Father in heaven”.

With one word he makes it perfectly clear who the Father is – he's our Father. If God is our Father – then Jesus is our brother. He never said *“my Father in Heaven”* – He said *“Our Father in heaven”*. That very day Jesus made it perfectly clear that you and me are his brothers and sisters.

Along the way Jesus dropped many hints to the fact he is our brother and the Father is our Father.

(Hebrews 2:9-11) Jesus says very clearly, *“I am not ashamed to call you brother and sister”* Fancy that – Jesus is not ashamed to call you and me his brothers and sisters.

Hey I ashamed to be called Jesus brother – I’m ashamed at all the things that make me shameful – to many things to list. But he is not ashamed – maybe he knows so much more what he and the Holy Spirit have done to make me presentable and acceptable. He knows the fullness of Baptism and forgiveness.

“I am not ashamed to call you brother or sister” Jesus words not mine.

One day there was a crowd and a lot of stuff was happening: heated debates, threats, casting out of demons, commotion? The disciples wanted Jesus out of there – for his own good. They said, *“hey, Jesus your mother and brothers are outside”* – and they were.

Do you remember that strange response: “Who are my mother and my brothers?” Then he looked at those around him and said, *‘You are my mother and my brothers [and sisters].! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother?’*

I think we’re getting the message that being a brother to Jesus means a lot more than we know.

John 20:17 _After Jesus rose from the dead, he said to Mary, ‘go and tell the disciples I am alive’. Then he said ***“I am returning to my Father and to your Father, to my God and to your God.”***

Do you ever consider you are Jesus brother – entitled to everything he has right now - that is a place next to the father in eternity?

John 17 Jesus prayer before he was taken up: ***“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world” “Father I want them to have everything that I have”*** - now that is a brother.

You know I was an awesome brother – but I never prayed that my sisters could have whatever I have. Could I do it now? Could you do it?

When Jesus prayed the Our Father everything changed for ever – Jesus publically declared we are his brothers – and we too are in line for the farm – whatever he gets we get.

Listen to this – let it sink in – soak it up: (Rom 8) ***...the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to be {hiers}. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ,...***

They say Prince William is worth around \$40 million – not bad but Hollywood and top sportspeople are worth a lot more than that. But when those up the line from William die he is expected to inherit \$80 Billion.

What are we inline to inherit as Jesus brothers – co-heirs of the kingdom?

Do you remember the rich man in Hell trying to talk Lazarus into giving him a single drop of water to cool his tongue? He would have paid anything – name a number – for that single drop of water – but he couldn't because that water is ours – our inheritance is priceless.

Captain Cook, the hero of our history lessons, looked into the eyes of a black-fella and said *Terra Nullius* – nobody there.

Jesus looks into the eyes of a black fella and says – brother, sister.

Jesus looks into your eyes and says – brother, sister.

And even more as the song says, “Brother, sister, let me be your servant”.

Can we digress for a minute?

Many bible translations only use the word brother in all these texts about inheritance – leaving the sister out. It's not completely wrong – it's just lacking a bit.

The original Greek word for brother is *Adelphos*. It can be translated as brother – it's a masculine form of the word but it's more than just “brother” – brother is limited to say the least.

In Adelaide we have Delphin Island, Delphin Estate. Delphin is the root word of *Adelphos*.

What does Delphin (or dolphin same-thing) mean? Delphin/dolphin is the Greek word for uterus/womb.

Delphos (womb) is the root word of *Adelphos* – it could be translated better by implying ‘people from the same womb’ – in other words sibling – brothers and sister.

What is a dolphin – it's a fish with a womb?

When they call an entire new suburb “Delphin estate” I think they're hoping for huge population explosion from all those new wombs – in that new suburb. We do digress.

Jesus is my brother – Jesus is your brother.

He shares the bottle of Snowtop – all for you none for him.

He shares his life – all for you wanting nothing in return.

I was thinking how to encourage us to live as Jesus brothers in and among the MVLC this week.

How about this: Do you remember the way you treated your own brother and sister when you were young – that's not how we should treat each other in the kingdom today.

Remember how you were - don't be like that.

Remember Satan doesn't want you to be in Jesus family – the shame we share comes from Satan – he tries to shame us out of the kingdom. There are just too many scriptures of Jesus restoring, forgiving, and washing his people. He calls us brother, sister, because he is not ashamed of what he has done in us.

Yes this week treat your neighbour not the same way you treated your real brother or sister. Pour a drink for someone – and make sure yours is clearly less by mile. Do that in all you do and you will know you brother and sister in Christ the same way Jesus knows you.

We call this prayer ‘The Lord’s Prayer’. It’s wrong on so many levels. This is our prayer – not ‘the lord’s’ prayer – he gave it to us.

Did you know that in every language in the world except English this prayer is called the “Our Father” not “The Lord’s Prayer”.

Unser Vater (German), Pater Noster (Latin), even Arranda Kaarta Nunurkara (Father ours)

English calls the prayer the Lord’s Prayer – we can change this. But what’s more important is that we know in our hearts, instinctively, that Jesus is our brother.

Try this: Buy a nice drink, your favourite drink, a soft drink, a beer, a wine, whatever, and pour it out for your friends – let them have it all and you have none – know what it’s like for Jesus to call you brother or sister. Amen.

Our Father, we can call on you confidently because Jesus has made us your children – your heirs. Be with us each day as we grow up in the Family help to watch out for all our brothers and sisters. Amen.