

"Not Like That, Like This"

Week 5

KEY PASSAGES:

Matthew 6:9-11 "This, then, 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. *Give us today our daily bread.*'"

2 Corinthians 8:3: ...they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.

Psalms 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it...

Lamentations 3:24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

John 17:20-23, I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

1 Corinthians 12:21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

1 Corinthians 11:28-29 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.

QUESTIONS:

1. Have life group poll / debate: which restaurant has the best bread?
2. What are your earliest associations of this week's part of Lord's prayer that says "Give us this day our daily bread"?
3. Can you think of an example of a gift that comes with responsibility?
4. We talked about the difficulty in our culture of answering the question "how much do I *really* need?" For anyone willing to answer the question with complete honesty: what things / expenses would you regard as your bare minimum for survival in navigating daily life?
5. Read Psalm 24:1 and 2 Corinthians 8:3 above. What do those verses communicate to you regarding perspective on those things God has provided?
6. The Lord's prayer was written within the context of a collectivist culture (family & community > self) and the prayer is for 'our bread', not 'my bread.' What additional application does this offer you about this part of the Lord's prayer?

Application & reflection: How might things change for you if you approached church with greater responsibility to the community than to self--more of a sense of *we* instead of *me*?