

Wisdom Not Worry

Tuesday, June 9

Matthew 6:9

"Our Father..."

Have you ever considered how two small words can change everything? Think of the impact "I Do" or "Not Guilty" or "I'm Sorry" can have on a person's life. In teaching us to pray "Our Father," Jesus communicates two truths which can transform the way we pray.

First, Jesus teaches us that prayer is communal. While we often think of prayer as something we do in isolation, Jesus' use of the plural pronoun "our" reminds us that prayer was never meant to be solely a solo exercise. To pray in the plural is to be reminded that it's not just *about* me – I have a responsibility to others in the family of God. To pray in the plural also reminds me that it's not *only* me. I'm not alone. I'm part of a vast family of brothers and sisters who call God Father. God will answer much of what I pray for through them.

Second, Jesus teaches us something of the character of the One to whom we pray. Of all the appropriate ways He could have taught us to address Him – Judge, Teacher, Master, Friend - He wanted us to remember him as Father. By trusting in Jesus, God has become our Father. Unlike the shortcomings of our earthly dads, this Father is perfect. He "knows how to give good gifts to his children" (Luke 11:13), is pleased to give us his Kingdom (Luke 12:32), is filled with compassion (Psalm 103:13), overflowing with mercy and is able to comfort us in our all our afflictions (2 Cor. 2:1:1-3) and is lavish in love (1 John 3:1). You don't have to cajole Him. He is caring and compassionate.

How might knowing this change the way you approach God in prayer today?

So grateful,
Ben