

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

Date: 17 October 2022
Services: *Across the Diocese*
Series: Our Father
Passage: Psalm 96
Title: Hallowed be your name
Outline:

1. What the words mean
2. What the prayer means

- Amazing seeing videos in slow motion...
- I took some video years back of our kids – jumping off the deck. Incredible seeing all the moves!
- See all sorts of details you'd never otherwise see
- We're taking some time to **slow down** the Lord's prayer and look at it in slow-mo
- **Line by line....**
- You see **because** Jesus was teaching his disciples **how** to pray – more than **what** to pray – then obviously there are significant things to **learn** here about prayer
- My **prayer** is that this series will help to **deepen** and **inspire** and **strengthen** our **prayer life...**
- ...and that also when we **say** the Lord's prayer again, all that we've **explored** together will **resonate** in our **heads** and **hearts** and make the praying of this prayer all the more **significant** and **meaningful!**
/////
- Last week we saw that the **context** of prayer is **relationship....** We come as a **child** to a **Father...** so we come to someone **willing** to **hear** us **pray**
- We saw that the **challenge** of the prayer is that we must realise that we are not in fact **self-sufficient** – that we **cannot** live God's **way** without **God's help...**
- We saw that we come in prayer not only to someone who is **willing** to help because he is our **Father**, but **able** to help because he is our **Father in heaven!**
- And we saw that the **potential** of prayer is **great** because God is able to do **more** than either we can **ask** or **imagine.../////**
- We come this morning to the second half of this opening line – *hallowed be your name*
- And I want to look quite briefly with you this morning at
- What the **words** mean and
- What the **prayer** means

1. WHAT THE WORDS MEAN

- When you come to the **perfect prayer**, taught by the **perfect Son** of **God** - you'd expect that the first request would be a **special** one wouldn't you?
- The first thing we discover in this first petition; 'hallowed be your name' is that the **name** is the **person**
- We could summarise the petition like this - *hallowed be **YOU !!***
- In our own culture, we don't treat names as much more than tags

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- E.g. Mr King - doesn't mean he is to served at all - and his home could be anything but palatial. You could meet someone named Mrs Jolly and she could be a manic depressive.
- You may meet someone like Mr Short and find that he's 6' 3"
-Not **every name** is **descriptive**
- However in the Bible names are **often** descriptive, and God's name is **always** descriptive. //
- Every time God gives his name it's **another facet** of his **character**.
- So he comes face to face with **Abraham** and says leave your community: **I am your shield**.
- He says you and Sarah will have a child even though you are 99 and 100 years old; **I am all sufficient**
- He comes face to face with **Moses** and Moses is surrounded by thousands of weird ideas and says to Moses: **I am Yahweh - real and living**.
- **Later** in the scriptures... we read of him being **provider, peacemaker, healer**, and it's as though we are in a black room - and we are getting a little more light - God **opens** this door on **himself** - and when the door is **fully open**, the name he gives us is "**Father**"
- Hallowed be **you** - the **creator** and **provider**, the **healer**, the **redeemer**, the **personal God**, - may **you God** in all your **fullness**, be **honoured** as you **deserve!** //
- And when the 3rd commandment says *don't take the name of the Lord in vain*, it really says the same thing //
- - if you **know** God - you want his **glory**.
- But if you throw God's name **around**, you only know the **tag**.
- I find this a very simple test - when I hear someone **throw** the name of **God** or **Christ** around, I know almost straight away the person does not know the person **God** for **themselves** - they only know the **tag**.
- So test yourself - if you are the sort of person who throws in an 'O God' or "**Oh My God**" or "O **Christ**", then I suggest you know only the **tag** and not the **person**. //
- One of the first things that happens when a person becomes a Christian, is that they stop this **throwing** the **name** of **God** around. No longer is it just a **word** a **sentence** or a **comment**, it becomes a **person**.
- So the **name** is the **person**. ////
- What does it mean to ask God to hallow his **name**? – or hallow **himself**?
- "**Hallowed**" means **known** and **acknowledged** and **honoured** as **HOLY**. //
- "**Holy**" is the Bible word for all that makes God **different** from us, in particular his awesome **power** and **purity**.
- This petition then asks that the **praise** and **honour** of the **God** of the **Bible** and of **him only**, should be absolutely **central** in **everyone's life**. ///
- Some time ago now there was a book published in Australia called **Unsung heroes** - about Australians throughout history who hadn't been given as much **publicity** as they might have **deserved**.
- These short tributes were just **3-4 pages**, but they told the story of **great Australians** so that in reading the **story** we would give to them **credit** or **honour** that was **due** to **them**
- this man was **remarkable** - this lady was **amazing** - and yet I'd never heard of **them**...

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- Now the book was not saying here are 100 people who are not worthy of any credit but please would you **stir** it up for **them**...
- ...**no** // the book was saying let me tell you a little **summary** of this person, and as we read the **summary** we responded with – “**wow!**” – that person was **amazing** – that person was **incredible**.
- Australian story on the ABC- some amazing account - that person deserves **more honour** //
- In the world, God is never really **appreciated**... the **greatness** of God and the **glory** of God are never really **acknowledged** as they **ought to be**. //
- But we don't have to **create** glory for God and **fake** it - like that **sick** sort of worship that was given to the unworthy Roman **emperors**... /
- Rather, when we find out what God is like it is **natural** for us to respond and say '**you are astonishing**' – ‘may your name – may YOU be hallowed – honoured – seen for you who really are!’ - it comes as a **reaction** - a **natural** and **right response**.
- Now we are not really people who see very clearly - the **heavens** give God his **glory** - **Jesus** glorified the **Father**, the **Holy Spirit** seeks to glorify **God**; the people in **heaven** give glory to **God**, but we **DON'T** - because our vision is **clouded** if not **blinded**...
- ...and the more **clearly** we see and the more **Christ-like** we **become** and the more **spiritual** we **become** the more we will want the **glory** of **God** - the more we will **desire** what he **deserves**...
- I find that a **very searching test**... //
- It's like **Copernicus** you see... he discovered the **sun** was **central** -he didn't have to pretend - he didn't have to urge on people something that we quite **illogical** and **wrong**... once he knew that we were completely **dependent** on the **sun** and that the **sun** was **central**, he just **told** the **story**.
- We Christians are like **Copernicus**.
- We **know** that God is **central**, we don't have to **pretend**, we only have to tell the **story**... ///
- Are you and I **here** because God got us **up** this morning? - **yes**
- Is our heart beating now because God is making it beat? - answer **yes**..
- Is the earth turning around and revolving around the sun because God is making it? - **yes**
- But I tell you that God is an **unsung hero** in the **world**.
- When you turn on the TV or read the newspaper, you will not find God is given **central place** - you find he's not on the **stage** at **all**.
- But you will find it from the **Scripture** that God is on the **centre** of the **stage** - we owe such a **lot** the **Scriptures** which are the **light** in our **dark world** and the key to our **locked world** //
- Do you see God as **great**?
- Do you **long** to see the **WORLD** acknowledge God is **great**?
- Then that's what you're **praying** when you **ask** “**hallowed be your name!**” –
- - which leads to explore now (a little more) about

2. WHAT THE PRAYER MEANS

- we come to the Lord's prayer having addressed God as our Father in heaven and we say, '**glory to you**'.

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- This phrase **banishes** our self **interest**
- It's **natural** for us to burst into God's presence with *our* **problem** or **worry**... but Jesus tells us that we are to come to the Father and start with **HIS** concerns – **HIS honour**.
- This will actually **change** the way you **pray**...
- Imagine - something on your mind today that is **distracting** you so that you are not really able to **concentrate** easily... - and imagine that you want to get away to **pray about it**... //
- I would suggest that on the basis of what Jesus is teaching here the **first** thing we say is: 'may you be glorified'.
- In this **situation**, in **this** area of **challenge**... in this **illness**... or **work situation**... may **YOU FATHER** end up with the **glory**....!
- That will actually **transform** our **attitude** to that **particular problem**!
- Maybe it's a relationship which is tense and your first natural inclination is to call out to God and say '**fix it up**' - **vindicate me** - make it **easier** for me ...and yet we find ourselves in the Lord's prayer saying first of all 'may **you** be **glorified**' - and that is a **high petition**.
- I would ask you keep in mind when you pray... so that the Lord's Prayer **forces you/challenges you** to be **God-centred**.
- Copernicus - 15th c astronomer - world moves around the sun - and he proved it. Taught - realistic that they moved around the sun.
- Now what Jesus teaches in the Lord's Prayer is that it is **REAL** that we rotate around **God**.
- It's actually fact. We are **dependent** upon **him** and he is **central**.
- Packer "*were we left to ourselves, any praying we did would start and end with **ourselves**, for our natural self-centredness knows no bounds. And we learn in Matt 6:12 that the first **desire** of the **children of God** is the **glory of God***"
- Isn't that a remarkable thing? Transforming, God honouring.
- So the first thing praying this prayer will mean is that we give up our own **small minded priorities**.
- Stott "*we are constantly under pressure to conform to the self-centredness of our secular culture - and when that happens we become concerned about our own little name - liking to see it on our note paper - or hitting the headlines in the paper and defending it when it is attacked... But in the Christian counter-culture, our top priority concern is not **our name**, our **kingdom**, our **will** but **God's**, and whether we can pray these petitions with **integrity** is a searching test of the **reality** and **depth** of our **Christian profession**.*"
- Now there is fantastic **pressure** on us isn't there to make a **name**.
- And I want to urge you this morning if you are a Christian to stop seeking your **OWN name**.
- And to stop seeking your **OWN kingdom**
- And to stop seeking your **OWN will** over and above **God's will** //
- We are people who are to be **opposed** to the shift from **God** to **people**.
- And when we discover the God who we know as **creator** is being **ignored**, or when we discover the God who we know is **King** is being treated as **servant**, or God who is the **Redeemer** is being rejected as **Saviour**, or God who is **personal** is being treated as **impersonal**, we are **outraged**.

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- You and I cannot be happy if people treat God as **irrelevant, optional, desperate, uncaring** when we know that he **is!**
- More **positively**, we can test everything we have planned by this petition "hallowed be your name".
- Let's say we have a **relationship** - are you **married?** - do you have a **relationship?** - here's a good test - does it **hallow God? Honour him?**
- You have some **plans** - do they **honour God?** –
- you have a certain **life** which you live through the week - does it **honour God?** //
- these are the questions that we ought to ask - we test everything - does it **hallow God's name?**
- And so as we pray this petition - and I have wanted you to see that it is not a petition which can be taken lightly....
- Once you focus on the **depth** of this 'hallowed be your name' petition - it's like the Pacific Ocean - there is enough to **explore** for all your **days** - and we find ourselves **praying** as we say it - heavenly Father - may **your name** be **honoured** in my **life** - in my **home**, in my **church**, in my **country**...
- and then we'll **put our heads together** as a **church** and we'll say - **how** can we make the **truth** of God **known?**
- - how can we publish the story of this **unsung hero**...?
- until **everyone** responds with the **same prayer** and **says** to God '**hallowed be your name**'