

D. Dependence on His Leading

Matthew 6:12-14

Luke 11:4

1. Introductory note:

a. It might seem like every aspect of this prayer re-involves us in some phase of agreement with the Divine economy. That is probably right. The greater our concept of what it is to be a Christian, the richer is our Christian life and the fuller of day by day experience. So in this passage of Scripture we find both the praise of God (hallowed be thy name), the respect of God (thy will be done) and the thanks due God (give us this day) are all set before us as the desired expressions in prayer and in life. So with the close of the prayer. In it the writer shows us how the Lord instructed his own to rely on God's leading in life and pattern.

b. This part of the prayer is the part that causes the most difficulty to many hearers. They believe the Lord is telling something that is not in agreement with other passages for our time. And for that reason they may try to re-assign it to another age. But I believe that is unnecessary and perhaps even harmful. The opinion here is that when all truth is put together in meaningful context, the message of these verses will be especially challenging and helpful.

2. Discussion:

a. A Matter of Forgiveness

(1) Vs. 12 has a rather long commentary in vss 14 and 15 (Mt. 6) and a long illustration in Matthew 18:23-35. It is thought by some to be antithetical to the teaching of forgiveness in John (First John) 1 and 2. We think that the whole doctrine of forgiveness must be studied and that when it is so treated in becomes apparent that certain