

Living Lent | Day 6

A Babbling Life

“And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

‘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.

*And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’*

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Matthew 6:7–15 NIV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

Today’s devotional text is one many of us have read, if not recited 1000’s of times before in worship and private devotion. Perhaps it is living through the chaos of Covid or simply reflecting upon new life goals, but

I was challenged anew reading this text by the opening verse, “do not keep on babbling like pagans.”

Jesus, when teaching his followers to pray, was clear that God prefers the practice of quality over quantity. Jesus looks to his disciples and says, “do not keep saying

words for the mere sake of trying to impress those around you.” I wonder how this practice can/should impact the life of a disciple not only in the arena of prayer, but the arena of everyday life? What are other ways we may be guilty of babbling on like the world around us?

What if, as an expression of our discipleship of Jesus, we sought to spend our time in a more focused way, not living to impress our neighbors, but to spend our limited resource of time homing in on a life that glories and exemplifies Jesus? What if, as an expression of our genuine desire to follow Jesus, we sought not to “babble” or mindlessly expend our financial resources simply living up to the world’s expectations, but were more intentional about our spending, focusing on the quality of our life, rather than the mere quantity of what we have? Perhaps we could free up funds to live more fully into the generous people God hopes, and deep down I believe we hope, to be.

As you pray the short 10 or so lines of the Lord’s Prayer, may we ask God how we may expand this practice of quality over quantity into other elements of our life, freeing us of time and resources to spend on more worthwhile pursuits. Perhaps for you that freedom can lead you to make a gift to the good and holy work of Morningstar. If so, I hope you will consider that this day.

***Challenge to Prayer and the Exercise of the Privilege of Generosity:
Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ***

The Reverend Dr. Tony Lankford is the Executive Pastor at the First Baptist Church of Gainesville, Georgia and the former Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of St. Simons Island, Georgia. With an obvious commitment to Morningstar evidenced by Rev. Lankford while at SSI, he has now travelled to the north corner of Georgia, where he has also found that the First Baptist Church of Gainesville has long supported Morningstar Children’s Home. This commitment to Morningstar from two corners of the State has offered us a reminder that we do not need to “babble” but work forward in sincerity in practicing intentionality in our commitment to the mission of the Body of Christ and the work of Morningstar.

*It takes a lot of everything to **create home and healing** for the foster children,
our neighbors, served at Morningstar Children’s Home.*

***We invite you to join others in giving \$1 per day during Lent to help
support the needs of the children.***

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