

The Sermon on the Mount

Explanation

Chart 9-1 compares five versions of the Lord's Prayer. Each one is slightly different. In addition to the four prayers found in the scriptures, the fifth comes from a very early Christian handbook of instructions known as the Didache. Because the early Christians understood that this prayer was not to be rigidly recited verbatim, the surviving variations are not unexpected.

Similarly, chart 9-2 displays the Beatitudes found at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. These statements, beginning with the word "blessed" (in Greek, *makarios*; in Latin, *beatus*), promise ultimate blessedness, happiness, or beatification, especially in the afterlife, to individuals who have acquired the requisite attributes of righteousness. This chart compares the Beatitudes in three versions of the Sermon. Jesus gave basically the same sermon on several occasions, modifying details to suit the particular audience or setting. In Matthew 5–7, Jesus addressed faithful disciples at the outset of his ministry. In Matthew 5–7 JST, he addressed his Twelve Apostles as he sent them forth as missionaries. In 3 Nephi 12–14, he again presented essentially the same speech but now modified it to instruct a group of righteous people gathered at the temple in the city of Bountiful following his resurrection. Some people seek to find "the original version" of the Sermon on the Mount, but that quest may be guided by the faulty assumption that Jesus gave the Sermon only on one occasion. Ministering for over three years, he would have repeated his basic messages on several occasions.

References

- John W. Welch, *Illuminating the Sermon at the Temple and Sermon on the Mount* (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1999), 79–82.
- John W. Welch, "Two Notes on the Lord's Prayer," in *Pressing Forward with the Book of Mormon* (Provo, Utah: FARMS 1999), 228–30.
- Ernst Lohmeyer, *"Our Father": An Introduction to the Lord's Prayer* (New York: Harper & Row, 1965).

The Lord's Prayer

King James Version of Matthew 6

9. Our Father
which art in
heaven[s],
hallowed be
thy name.

10. Thy kingdom
come.

Thy will be done
in earth, as it is
in heaven.

11. Give us this
day our daily
bread.

12. And forgive
us our debts,

as we forg[a]ve
also our debtors.

13. And lead
us not into
temptation, but
deliver us from
[the] evil.

For thine is the
kingdom, and
the power, and
the glory, forever.
Amen.

Joseph Smith Translation Matthew 6

10. Our Father
who art in
heaven,
hallowed be
thy name.

11. Thy kingdom
come.

Thy will be done
on earth, as it is
done in heaven.

12. Give us this
day, our daily
bread.

13. And forgive
us our trespasses,

as we forgive
those who tres-
pass against us.

14. And suffer us
not to be led into
temptation, but
deliver us from
evil.

15. For thine is
the kingdom, and
the power, and
the glory, forever
and ever, Amen.

Greek Version in Luke 11

2. Father

hallowed be
thy name.

Thy kingdom
come.

3. Give us day
by day our daily
bread.

4. And forgive
us our sins;
for we also
forgive every
one that is
indebted to us.

And lead us not
into temptation.

Book of Mormon 3 Nephi 13

9. Our Father
who art in
heaven,
hallowed be
thy name.

10. Thy will be
done on earth as
it is in heaven.

11. And forgive
us our debts,

as we forgive our
debtors.

12. And lead
us not into
temptation, but
deliver us from
evil.

13. For thine is
the kingdom, and
the power, and
the glory, forever.
Amen.

Didache 8:2

Our Father
in heaven,

hallowed be
thy name.

Thy kingdom
come.

Thy will be done,
on earth as it is
in heaven.

Give us this day
our daily bread

and forgive
us our debt
[singular],
as we [now]
forgive our
debtors.

And lead us not
into temptation,
but deliver us
from [the] evil.

For thine is the
power and the
glory forever.