

Dr. Craig Keener, Matthew, Session 9

Matthew 6:1-18, 7-8

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Keener, Matthew, Session 9, Matthew 7-8, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Craig Keener's lecture analyzes Matthew chapters 6-9, focusing on the Lord's Prayer, its Jewish context, and implications for prayer and life. He **examines the "you" and "we" petitions**, exploring their meaning and relevance for both individual and communal faith. Keener **discusses the importance of hallowing God's name**, seeking God's kingdom, and trusting in God's provision. Finally, he **interprets Jesus' miracles** in Matthew chapters 8 and 9, emphasizing their holistic significance and role in evangelism. The lecture also touches upon textual criticism of the Lord's Prayer and the importance of discerning true from false prophets.

2. 20 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Keener, Matthews, Session 7 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Gospels – Acts → Matthew).



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3. Briefing Document

Briefing Doc: Dr. Craig Keener's Lecture on Matthew 7-8

Source: Keener_Matthew_EN_Lecture09.pdf

Author: Dr. Craig Keener

Main Themes:

- **The Lord's Prayer:** Its Jewish roots, meaning, and implications for believers today.
- **Materialism vs. God's Kingdom:** The dangers of materialism and the call to seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness.
- **Judging Others:** The hypocrisy of judging others while ignoring our own faults and the need to discern who is receptive to correction.
- **The Authority of Jesus:** Jesus' authority as demonstrated in his teaching, miracles, and his call to discipleship.
- **Jesus' Miracles:** The significance of Jesus' miracles, both physically and spiritually, and their role in drawing attention to the Gospel.

Key Ideas and Facts:

I. The Lord's Prayer

- Parallels the Kaddish, a familiar Jewish prayer, demonstrating Jesus' continuity with Jewish tradition.
- "Our Father" emphasizes dependence on God, who provides and loves like a father.
- Jesus uses the intimate Aramaic term "Abba" (Father), highlighting a unique closeness with God.
- Contains "you" petitions (hallow your name, your kingdom come) and "we" petitions (give us, forgive us), emphasizing both God's agenda and our needs.
- Calls us to work for God's kingdom and will now while looking forward to their full realization in the future.
- Emphasizes forgiveness and dependence on God for daily needs.
- "Lead us not into testing" likely means helping us withstand testing, not avoiding it altogether.

- The doxology "Yours is the kingdom..." was likely added later and is not in the earliest manuscripts.
- Emphasizes the corporate nature of prayer and our unity as believers.

II. Materialism vs. God's Kingdom

- Materialism blinds us to God's perspective.
- "Let your eye be single" calls for single-minded devotion to God, contrasting generosity with a "diseased" or stingy eye.
- Cannot serve both God and mammon (money personified).
- God promises provision for basic needs (food, clothing) but doesn't promise wealth.
- Jesus draws lessons from nature, showing God's care for even the smallest creatures.
- Worry is futile and demonstrates a lack of faith in God's provision.

III. Judging Others

- Judging others assumes a divine prerogative and often reflects self-righteousness.
- "Take the log out of your own eye..." vividly illustrates the hypocrisy of judging others while ignoring our own faults.
- "Do not give dogs what is sacred..." likely refers to the futility of correcting those unwilling to receive it.
- One should discerningly offer wisdom and the gospel to those receptive to it.

IV. The Authority of Jesus

- Jesus teaches with unique authority, not relying on other scribes, but speaking like "thus says the Lord."
- Demonstrates authority over sickness, storms, and evil spirits through miracles.
- His miracles are not mere symbols but demonstrations of God's power and care for the whole person.
- Calls disciples to follow his example and participate in God's kingdom work.

V. Jesus' Miracles

- Matthew 8-9 presents 10 specific miracles, grouped in three sections with teaching and discipleship.
- Miracles should not be allegorized but understood as real events with both physical and spiritual implications.
- They function as signs pointing to the Gospel and demonstrating God's power.
- They invite us to trust in God who can heal and meet our needs.
- Jesus touches the untouchable (leper), showing his willingness to embrace our brokenness and make us whole.
- While acknowledging God's sovereignty, we should still pray for healing with genuine care and concern.

Important Quotes:

- "It's an expression of dependence...But we don't have to do that, because Our Father knows what we have need before we ask him."
- "Abba...it was a title of respect, but it was also a title of intimacy, a title of great affection."
- "Don't value possessions enough to seek them...Don't value possessions enough to worry about them either."
- "Let your eye be generous...Don't let it be stingy like, 'Oh no, I want to keep this for myself.'"
- "You've got this tree sticking out of your eye...Jesus may be applying a familiar expression here. But it's really a grotesque image."
- "You'll know them by their fruits, not by their gifts...They come looking like God's people, but really they're not speaking for God, and they're not living for God."
- "Jesus is judged on the day of judgment, and people will be judged by how they built on his teaching...Jesus' teaching is on the same level as the Torah. It's God's word."
- "Miracle stories do have implications for spiritual restoration. They have a lot of implications for spiritual restoration. But most of them explicitly speak of physical restoration."

This briefing document summarizes the main themes and important ideas from Dr. Keener's lecture on Matthew 7-8. It provides insights into the meaning of the Lord's Prayer, the dangers of materialism, the hypocrisy of judgment, the authority of Jesus, and the significance of his miracles. By understanding these concepts, readers can gain a deeper appreciation for the message of the Gospel and its relevance for their lives.

4. Matthew Study Guide: Session 9, Matthew 6:1-18, 7-8

Matthew 7-8 Study Guide

Key Terms Glossary

Abba: An Aramaic word meaning "father" that expresses intimacy and affection, used by Jesus to address God and extended to believers.

Hallowed: To be set apart as holy, sacred, or revered. In the Lord's Prayer, it expresses a desire for God's name to be honored and respected.

Kingdom of God: The reign and rule of God, both present in the lives of believers and future in its ultimate consummation.

Daily Bread: Basic necessities of life, including physical sustenance. In the Lord's Prayer, it expresses dependence on God's provision.

Debts: In the context of the Lord's Prayer, it refers to sins and transgressions against God and others.

Testing: Trials and challenges that test one's faith and obedience. In the Lord's Prayer, it is a plea for God's help to endure and overcome temptation.

Evil One: Satan, the personification of evil and temptation.

Doxology: A short expression of praise to God, often used at the end of prayers.

Textual Criticism: The study of biblical manuscripts to determine the most accurate and original text.

Mammon: An Aramaic term for wealth or possessions, often personified as a rival to God.

Single Eye: A metaphor for single-minded devotion to God and generosity towards others.

Evil Eye: A metaphor for stinginess, jealousy, and a lack of generosity.

Cubit: An ancient unit of measurement, used by Jesus to illustrate the futility of worry.

Judge: To condemn or criticize others, assuming a divine prerogative.

Pearls Before Swine: A proverb warning against sharing valuable truths with those who will not appreciate or understand them.

Fruits: The outward evidence of one's inward character, used to identify true prophets.

Call of the Omer: A rabbinic argumentative technique that uses a "how much more" comparison to make a point.

Two Ways: A common ancient motif representing the choice between righteousness and wickedness.

Messianic Secret: The idea that Jesus sought to conceal his messianic identity, at least for a time.

Authority: The right to command and be obeyed. Jesus' authority stems from his divine nature and mission.

Short-Answer Quiz

1. How does the Lord's Prayer reflect Jesus' teachings on dependence on God?
2. What are the key differences between the "you" petitions and the "we" petitions in the Lord's Prayer?
3. Explain the meaning of "hallowed be your name" in the context of the Lord's Prayer.
4. What does Jesus teach about worry and materialism in Matthew 6:19-34?
5. Why does Jesus warn against judging others?
6. What does the proverb "don't cast your pearls before swine" mean in the context of Matthew 7:6?
7. How does Jesus use the "call of the Omer" argument to illustrate God's willingness to give good gifts?

8. What is the significance of the image of the "two ways" in Matthew 7:13-27?
9. How do Jesus' miracles in Matthew 8-9 demonstrate his authority?
10. How does the leper's request for healing in Matthew 8:1-4 reveal both his faith and humility?

Short-Answer Quiz Answer Key

1. The Lord's Prayer emphasizes dependence on God by addressing Him as "Our Father," acknowledging His provision ("daily bread"), forgiveness ("forgive us our debts"), and protection ("lead us not into temptation"). It encourages a childlike trust in God's care.
2. The "you" petitions ("hallowed be your name," "your kingdom come," "your will be done") focus on God's priorities and His glory, while the "we" petitions ("give us," "forgive us," "lead us," "deliver us") address the needs and concerns of the community of believers.
3. "Hallowed be your name" expresses a desire for God's name to be revered and honored in the world. It reflects the importance of living in a way that glorifies God and reflects His character.
4. Jesus teaches that material possessions should not be our primary focus. God promises to provide for our basic needs, and we should trust in His provision rather than succumbing to worry and anxiety. True treasure is found in heaven, not in earthly possessions.
5. Judging others is condemned because it assumes a divine prerogative. We should focus on our own flaws and seek God's forgiveness, rather than condemning others.
6. The proverb "don't cast your pearls before swine" warns against sharing valuable truths, such as the message of the kingdom, with those who are unwilling to receive or appreciate them. Discernment is necessary in sharing God's truth.
7. Jesus argues that if even sinful human fathers give good gifts to their children, "how much more" will our perfect heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask Him. This highlights God's surpassing goodness and willingness to answer prayer.

8. The "two ways" imagery underscores the crucial choice between following the path of righteousness, which leads to life, and the path of wickedness, which leads to destruction. It is a call to choose wisely and follow Jesus.
9. Jesus' miracles, including healings, exorcisms, and control over nature, demonstrate his authority over sickness, storms, and spiritual forces. They reveal his divine power and compassion, and they point to the reality of God's kingdom.
10. The leper's request, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean," shows his faith in Jesus' power to heal. His acknowledgement of Jesus' will also demonstrates humility and recognition of Jesus' authority.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the Lord's Prayer, exploring the significance of each petition and how it reflects Jesus' teachings.
2. Discuss Jesus' teachings on wealth and possessions in Matthew 6:19-34. What are the dangers of materialism, and how should followers of Jesus approach material wealth?
3. Explain Jesus' warning against judging others in Matthew 7:1-5. What are the implications of this teaching for personal relationships and interactions within the Christian community?
4. How does the imagery of "wolves in sheep's clothing" in Matthew 7:15-23 contribute to Jesus' warning about false prophets? What are the characteristics of true prophets, and how can they be distinguished from false ones?
5. Analyze the significance of Jesus' miracles in Matthew 8-9. How do they demonstrate his authority, reveal his character, and point to the reality of God's kingdom?

5. FAQs on Keener, Matthew, Session 9, Matthew 6:1-18, 7-8, Biblelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ: Jesus' Teachings in Matthew 7-9

1. What is the significance of the Lord's Prayer in Matthew's Gospel?

The Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6 is structured differently than in Luke, reflecting Matthew's topical arrangement. It draws parallels to the Jewish Kaddish, emphasizing God's fatherhood and the coming of his kingdom. The prayer's structure, with "you" and "we" petitions, highlights the importance of seeking God's will and kingdom while also acknowledging our present needs and those of the community. It is a prayer of dependence, reflecting our childlike trust in God's provision.

2. What does it mean to "hallow" God's name?

Hallowing God's name means living in a way that reflects God's holiness and makes His character known. It involves respecting and honoring God in all we do, ensuring our actions reflect His goodness and glory. This principle is considered foundational to Jewish ethics, emphasizing the importance of upholding God's reputation through righteous living.

3. How does Jesus' teaching on forgiveness in the Lord's Prayer connect to the social context of his time?

In Jesus' time, debts were a common burden for peasants, and forgiveness of debts held significant social implications. Jesus' teaching on forgiving others' debts in Matthew 6 emphasizes the connection between divine and human forgiveness. Just as we depend on God's forgiveness for our shortcomings, we are called to extend that same grace and forgiveness to those who have wronged us.

4. What is the meaning of "lead us not into testing" in the Lord's Prayer?

This petition doesn't mean we pray for a life completely free of challenges or temptations. Instead, it asks for God's strength and guidance to help us withstand and overcome these trials. The focus is on passing the test of faith and emerging stronger, relying on God's grace to resist succumbing to temptation and the schemes of the evil one.

5. How does Jesus address materialism in Matthew 6:19-34?

Jesus uses vivid imagery and practical examples to challenge the dangers of materialism and anxiety. He teaches that our focus should be on heavenly treasures, not earthly possessions. He uses the example of God's care for birds and lilies to illustrate His provision for our basic needs. The message is to trust in God's care and prioritize the kingdom over worldly wealth, letting go of worry and seeking first His righteousness.

6. What does Jesus mean by "don't judge" in Matthew 7?

Jesus warns against hypocritical and self-righteous judgment in Matthew 7. He emphasizes that judging others assumes a divine prerogative and often reveals our own blindness to our faults. The teaching emphasizes humility and self-reflection, urging us to focus on removing our own shortcomings before criticizing others.

7. How does Jesus link his teachings to the Torah in Matthew 7?

Jesus uses familiar imagery from Jewish tradition, like the two ways, to illustrate the narrow path of righteousness. He emphasizes that true discipleship involves bearing good fruit through actions that align with his teachings. Jesus' authority is highlighted as he reinterprets traditional parables and teachings, applying them to his own words and emphasizing their significance alongside the Torah.

8. What is the significance of the miracles in Matthew 8-9?

The ten miracles recorded in these chapters demonstrate Jesus' authority over sickness, nature, and spiritual forces. They are not merely symbolic but showcase God's power and compassion, offering hope for physical and spiritual restoration. These miracles serve as a model for disciples, showing them how to demonstrate God's reign through acts of power and mercy. They are a call to trust in God's ability to work in our lives and the lives of others, inviting us to participate in his mission of healing and deliverance.