

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 trespass 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.