

Intro:

4th Petition (Mt. 6:11/Lk. 11:3). READ WLC Q&A 193.

Main Point of Text: Agur asks God only for what is necessary to live so as he lives he is not tempted to take God's name in vain.

Sermon Point: *Pray Enough is Enough.*

Move 1: You deserve to go hungry.

LC: "acknowledging, that in Adam, and by our own sin, we have forfeited our right to all the outward blessings of this life". Outside of the Garden of Eden and Christ, we are entitled to nothing:

- **Gen. 2:17:** ... *in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*
- **Gen. 3:17:** ... *Because thou ... hast eaten of the tree ... cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;*

LC: "and deserve to be wholly deprived of [all the outward blessings of this life] by God, and to have them cursed to us in the use of them": Jer. 5:25: *Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you.*

Move 2: Ask God to mercifully feed you and thank Him for a full belly.

LC: "we pray for ourselves and others, that both they and we, waiting upon the providence of God from day to day in the use of lawful means":

- *Wait on God's Providence day-to-day.* Rely only on/acknowledge God for our daily sustenance:
 - Ps. 104:14-15: *He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth ... and bread which strengtheneth man's heart.*
 - Ecc. 5:19: *Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.*
- *Lawful Means:* (Live within them): 2 Thess. 3:11: ... *we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.*

LC: "that ... we ... may, of his free gift, and as to his fatherly wisdom shall seem best, enjoy a competent [adequate] portion of them". Gratitude gives good digestion:

- Gen. 32:10: *I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies ...*
- Mt. 6:25, 32: ... *Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink ... Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? ... (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*
- *For every one that asketh receiveth; ... Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? (Mat 7:8-11). Remember preface. And that ...*
- You are Sons of God. 1 John 3:1-2.
- Js. 1:17: *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights ...*

Move 3: You are prone to be unsatisfied and wasteful.

LC: “acknowledging, that in Adam, and by our own sin ... that neither they of themselves are able to sustain us, nor we to merit, or by our own industry to procure them”): Jer 6:13: *For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.* We cannot provide for ourselves. Nor make bread benefit us.

LC: “but prone to desire, get, and use them unlawfully”: Js. 4:3: *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.* This comes from a lack of contentment.

Move 4: Ask God to comfort you with contentment.

LC: “and have the same continued and blessed unto us in our holy and comfortable use of them”:

- Mt. 6:11: “the bread ours daily give to us *today*.” Lk. 11:3: “the according to *today*”. Not weeks, etc.
- ... *God hath created [meats] to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.* (1 Tim. 4:3-5). Grace makes food edible/nourishing.

LC: “and contentment in them; and be kept from all things that are contrary to our temporal support and comfort.” Main barrier to earthly comfort is covetousness for lack of contentment w/ what have:

- Gen. 28:20-21: *And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:*
- *But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.* (1 Tim. 6:6-9)
- Prov. 30:8-9:
 - Vs. 8a: concern not to live a life of empty lies (deception and vanity)
 - Vs. 8b, 9: knows sinful nature is especially prone to lie/be vain within extremes.
 - Solution: balance: vs. 8c-d. Moderation. Avoid excess and distress. “Convenient”: portion.
 - Vs. 9: a sinful response to extreme situations will blaspheme God.
 - “Who is the Lord?” (like Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Herod);
 - “take the name of God in vain” (lit., grasp/seize the name of God; like Gehazai, Judas).
 - Deut. 8:17-18: remember God led/fed you in the wilderness, don’t act like you did/do in P.L.
 - Deut. 8:3: ... *he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna ... that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.* (Mt. 4:4, Jesus quoted in wilderness)

Conclusion:

Prov. 15:17; Pro 17:1; Ps. 132:15; Ps. 34:10; Ps. 37:25. WSC 104.

Pray Enough is Enough.