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Dear Friends in Christ, Grace to you and Peace from God our Father and our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, Amen!

One of my first jobs was working at a lumberyard. My job was to make redwood stakes 6-8 inches long that you'd pound into the ground to hold the grass edging in place. I got paid a penny apiece and I could make 250-300 per hour if I hustled. So I was making \$2.50-\$3.00 per hour which was decent money because minimum wage was \$1.60 an hour. In order to make them I'd take the piece of wood and run it through the saw twice to make the point and then again through the saw to cut it off at about 6-8 inches.

One time I put the piece of wood through the saw and it got stuck and the saw spit it back out at me and it went flying right past my head. Another time I got my leather glove stuck in the saw and the saw literally sucked the glove right off of my hand. It was quite a summer. In both cases I just wasn't paying close enough attention. And those two instances were woo moments.

I have had a number of friends through the years who have been either amateur or professional carpenters and pretty much every one of them has a story about a saw and a scar or worse to back it up. And almost always the story ends with something like "I was daydreaming or something but I just wasn't paying

close enough attention and then woooo this happened”. Then they hold up their bandaged hand or finger.

I’m hoping this morning you might have a wooo kind of moment because we’re going to talk for a few minutes about something that you are really familiar with, something you’ve probably said or heard so many times in your life that it has lost its wooo—ness, it’s become so familiar like that saw blade to the carpenter that it becomes very easy to not pay much attention to it and just go through the routine and I hope you’re gonna get so close to it like that saw blade that you’re gonna go woooo in a good way. I’m talking about the Lord’s prayer.

The Lord ’s Prayer is so woo Luther even put it in the small catechism. You know that little book he wrote for parents so they could help teach their kids about The Lord. That little book where he asks about The Ten Commandments, Lord’s Prayer and Apostle’s Creed the questions we’re always asking “WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?” That’s why we have free copies for you to take home and read and use as conversation starters with your children and each other.

It is in fact the Prayer that spans the world. It is the prayer of the student, the lawyer, the teacher, the farmer, the office worker, the politician, the carpenter. It’s the prayer Todd Beamer prayed on United Airlines flight 93 on 9/11 as the hijackers steered it towards the white house before it crashed in the field in

Pennsylvania. It is the prayer that spans the generations, the prayer that when prayed intensely and freshly is like hitting the re-set button on our lives. It's the prayer which in contrast to most of our personal prayers you will not find the word I, me or mine. It begins by getting things right with God before anything else.

When the Lord gave us the Ten Commandments they begin with the first three defining our relationship with God as if to say get this right and the rest will follow. Well isn't it remarkable that God does the same thing in The Lord's Prayer. Isn't it amazing that these two incredible things in The Bible and in the world The Ten Commandments and The Lord's prayer begin with getting right with God.

That's super important because we spend most of our life and most of our energy getting right with the world and other people and making our way through life collecting experiences, preparing for the future and accumulating stuff. We have to work, we have bills to pay. Hey LIFE NEEDS TO BE ATTENDED TO!! But the Bible says get right with God first and the rest will follow.

As you consume media in pretty much any form it's pretty obvious that we are more concerned with wrinkles, ageing, exercise, eating right and "doing all of the right things". And those are **not unimportant**. But it's gotten to the point where we'll invest so much time, money and emotional energy into these earthen

vessels that are only temporary that we forget the most important thing is to get right with God. God tells us in so many different ways the most important thing is to get right with him first. (Yet how often do we just , Slowly and in Eor style) say our father who art in heaven hallowed be they name—like it’s this huge effort or a pain in the neck or like we’re doing God some big favor. Man that’s like getting that hand close to the saw but never getting that wooo sensation.

Our Father, who art in Heaven: What a way to start, far more than just a formal greeting like you might send to a friend where you begin by saying Dear So and So. The prayer begins by recognizing God’s supreme place, by reminding us who we’re talking to. It uses this very human word “Father” to describe God. It’s a reminder to us that there aren’t god’s of the forest, gods of the trees and rivers. It reminds us God isn’t just some very generic higher power of “big guy” upstairs. It reminds us that the God to whom we pray has the name and heart of a loving father. Intimacy of Abba Father

And when we say Our Father it reminds us we do have brothers and sisters in Christ. Yeah, you know even that person with whom you completely disagree over politics, yeah even that person whose personality deeply rubs you the wrong way, even that person with whom you have religious disagreements, when we pray Our Father, it reminds us we are part of the same human and Christian family.

Calling God our Father settles in some ways our relationship to ourselves. In those moments when we discover, I mean when we really discover that the world can keep on turning without us, in those moments when we wonder deep down if we really matter to anybody else beyond our ability to feed, house or clothe them, in those grim bleak moments we can still remind ourselves as William Barclay says “We matter to God; that in the mercy of God we are of royal lineage, a child of the king of kings-woooooo--- Wow and that’s just the first two words. As opposed to (eor style) Our Father who art in heaven...

God is not only our God, but he is our God who is in heaven. “Our Father who art In Heaven hallowed be thy name” reminds us of two great truths: it reminds us of the holiness of God and the power of God. Sometimes in the contemporary church we emphasized the friendship of Jesus and that he walks with us and all this kind of stuff so much (and it’s all true) that we have totally lost a sense of awe and reverence for almighty God. That in God in heaven complete and perfect love and holiness are combined.

Think about it in both the Ten Commandments (not taking the Lord’s name in vain) and in the Lord’s prayer (hallowed be thy name) the name of God is pretty important. Is it any wonder perhaps that The Lord’s prayer has lost some of it’s woo when you listen to how the name of God is thrown around. How or why would we have any respect or awe or reverence for God when we use the name so

casually. What does this mean? Luther put it right out there “God’s name is certainly holy in itself, but we ask in this prayer that we may keep it holy.”

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Think about it we’re a third of the way into the prayer and still nothing about me, myself or I or what I want. This is all foundational stuff getting the big picture right. Why? Because when you get right with God first the other stuff flows.

So often a lot of our well intentioned prayer life revolves around me getting my stuff, me wanting the world and life to be the way I think it should be, thinking it should be fair to me. But this prayer that spans the world gets it all started with God at the center. So when we pray “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” What does it mean? Luther puts it right out there. “God’s kingdom comes indeed without our praying for it, but we ask in this prayer that it may come also to us. And that it might be done among us.”

Folks, isn’t it amazing in this whole prayer doesn’t it strike you that to this point nor in the entire prayer there’s nothing about turning us into a “Good Christian” or a more pious person, or making our faith grow or anything like that that? The prayer that spans the world reminds us that it all begins with God. Jesus turns us away from ourselves and concentrates us on the Lord.

It is such an incredible prayer because somehow it's become easy to believe that the key to life is to focus on ourselves first and we'll squeeze in a little God or a little religion or a little faith if there's a little room and time left over. But all of Scripture and the Ten Commandments and this incredible prayer that spans the world called The Lord's prayer remind us to start with God first and to get right with God and to know God's got right with us.

In just a few minutes we're gonna do our confession before communion and in that confession it's about getting right with God and in the words of forgiveness it's a reminder that God has gotten right with us through Christ and then we'll pray the Lord's prayer and today we're gonna pray it a little slower than usual. And when we do I hope it's one of those wooo moments for you where it's not just done out of routine but rather it is a moment of intimacy with God as you prepare to receive that tangible reminder of what he's done for you. May God bless you