

SALT CO
January 26, 2025

The Seven Windows in Jesus' House of Prayer
Second Window: The Window on Beauty

"Hallowed be Your Name"

Matthew 6:9b

WELCOME TO THE SALT CO!

Welcome those who are joining us online.

This is the HUB of Seasoned Adult Ministry. For anyone new...by SEASONED ADULTS we mean:

SEASONED AS IN...

Chronologically-- we've lived a lot of seasons of life

BUT more importantly-

Spiritually--- ...like when sodium and chlorine combined make SALT... by the grace of God, when we receive Christ into our lives, we become like THIS [gesture: one hand—two hands—joined together]

JESUS CALLS US THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

And this is the SALT CO (where we pull off the road to gather, AND share stories about how to faithfully navigate the ever-changing terrain on Route 60+; and Route 60++...and +++...

A place where we:

Re-fuel

Re-charge

And sometimes even...*Re-tool*

SALT TALK

As we saw last time if we want to live and love like Jesus we need to think like Jesus. We need to see what He sees. How is *that* possible? We've been given what we need-HOLD UP BIBLE. It's why many of us are reading through Matthew this month, right? We read Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. And in the heart of His sermon Jesus invites us on a tour of the Seven Windows in His House of Prayer. What we call "the Lord's Prayer".

This theme that will bring us to Palm Sunday.

The prayer begins, "***Our Father in heaven.***" Last time we saw that this is the Window on Joy. Our Father is joy *full*. Jesus is God on the planet to proclaim, demonstrate, and make it possible for any who trust Him to enter into HIS glad to be together relationship with God as Our Father.

This first window sheds light on all the other windows in Jesus' House of Prayer.

Jesus now brings us to the Second Window in His house of prayer. What shines through this window when we pray, "***Hallowed be Your name***"?

"Hallowed be Your name"

Let's start with His name. We saw last time God's name is not "Father". Father is a role that defines relationship. What is God's name? Moses asked God and God answered. His name when you try to say it sounds like wind. We've tried to translate God's name with words like "***I am.***" Or "***I am who I am***", or "***I will be who I am***", or "***I cause to be.***" A footnote in my study Bible says, "*The meaning of the divine name cannot be discerned through contemplation of the name itself.*"

God's name is an invitation.

God's name invited Moses, God's name invites you and me, every human being who wants to know God into an adventure to see who God is, what

God will do, what God will cause. We often talk about the Christian life like a “journey”. Especially as we live through many seasons...

God cares about His name. We care what people think of us. We talk about our “good name”. So does God. God’s name is also God’s reputation. - Ezekiel 36:23-35 begins,

“I will sanctify my great name...”
Ezekiel 36::23

So, Jesus teaches us to pray for God’s name to hallowed. The turn of phrase here is interesting- “*be hallowed*”. It opens up the question, “who will do this hallowing?” God does. *And so do we*. Hallowing God’s name as Jesus teaches us to pray, will be something both God and we do together.

A concise theological definition of this arcane word, “hallowing” goes like this:

“To ‘hallow’ the name (i.e. the nature of God as known through his self-revelation in history) means, not only to reverence and honor God, but also to glorify him by obedience to his commands and thus prepare the coming of the Kingdom.”

D. Hill, The Gospel of Matthew, 1972, 136

But how is this even possible? On our own we don’t hallow God’s name; too often we *hollow* His name! To hollow is to empty out. EGO stands for Edging God Out. We can come up with all sort of ways, what we say, or do, fail to say or do, that hollows His name.

God knows all this about us! So here is very good news. Soak in these words:

“God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our sin, made us alive together with Christ- by grace you have been saved- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his

grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Ephesians 2:4-10

God's love, our Father's great joy, makes this possible! So we can hallow Him!

Here is another good gift of seasoned life. Our aging, what we must navigate on Route 60+, ++, +++, leads us to look back to see how He has been with us, has helped get us through, and lifts us our eyes toward our Father in heaven who has nothing but life and joy in His heart for us in this day, and what comes.

It makes sense that the Lord's Prayer is found toward the beginning of Matthew and Luke's Gospels. This tour of the Seven Windows in Jesus' House of Prayer prepares us to see, and to participate in what's here, and still coming. This second half of the introduction to Matthew's Gospel by The Bible Project helps make this clear. This is a little over seven minutes.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/matthew-14-28/>

So here's what we're getting so far: to "hallow" God's "name" is to pray both for God to make Himself known, and, by His great mercy and grace, to make ourselves available as His means to make Himself known.

To hallow is to "glorify". To "glorify" is to reflect, like a mirror positioned "just right", the shining holiness of God. "Just right" (DIKAIOSUNE) positioning is done by "obedience" (HUPAKOUE= lit. "listening under", listening from a kneeling posture, of "here am I, send me!"; wanting to be about doing what He wants done (more on that in the Third Window). When we are hallowing God's name, we are like mirrors reflecting who God is into places of great need. The result is actions others can see.

We hear stories of people helping people in this time of crisis. The owner of Slice House Pizza carting stacks of pies over to us the same day the Red Cross was setting up the shelter. My friend Tom showing up to help get three seasoned ladies back home after their evacuation order lifted- it was not easy! I love what Fred Rogers' mom once told him when there was tragedy in their neighborhood when he was a small boy, "Fred, look for the helpers..."

All of this is comprised in "hallowing" God's name. Reflecting who God is, how God is, out into the world. One of our proverbs says, "***The ways of a righteous person are like the rays of the sun on a cloudless morning...***" (II Samuel 23:3-4). Shining. Colorfully, hopefully, encouragingly, joyfully.

Seems to me that what shines through this Second Window in Jesus' House of Prayer is... beautiful.

When something is set right, we sometimes say, "That's good". Sometimes we also say, "That's beautiful".

The "truly beautiful" has a way of drawing us, doesn't it? It woos us. We experience "wonder, inspires us to welcome, others to come and see, it leads us into thanksgiving and worship, it fires our hearts and minds to work".

Holiness, Truth, Goodness, Joy, Beauty all seem to meld together...

Holiness cannot not be beautiful.

Let's stop here and talk about what we're seeing through this second window the Window on Beauty.

Table Talk

1. Give an example you've seen of someone "hallowing" God by what they said or did.
2. When you think of what is holy what comes to your mind?
3. "Hallowing God's name" involves both God and us. What do you think is God's part in this, and what do you see as your part?

4. How is God's name "hollowed" today?
5. If "hallowing" is a slow word, talk about a place and time that helps you to hallow well.
6. Pastor Thompson said hallowing God's name is like angling our mirror "just right" to reflect His glory into the world. What could this mean for you in your everyday?

Hallowing takes "gazing".

Gazing. Soaking in. Seeing. Contemplating. These are slow words. Take-time words. I cannot gaze fast. I cannot steep in a few seconds. The sunrise does not happen "quickly". *Hallowing is a very s-l-o-w word* (I said that too quickly. Let me try that again...) For many of us this is a serious issue. We are so velocitized, distracted. It is uncomfortable to even think about the art of "hallowing". We would rather watch cable news, catch the stock market, switch on the "game".

Gazing is not easy. It takes effort.

Curt Thompson says,

"To gaze on an object of beauty is to be present and look upon it on its own terms, not our own." (C. Thompson)

You don't jog through Chartres Cathedral. You walk slowly...

WHAT DO WE GAZE UPON in order to "hallow God's name"? I realize when I pray outside, as I take in the unspeakable beauty of creation, I am reminded that I too am a creature in His creation that our Father called very "beautiful"! Genesis 1:31. To hallow God's name is to honor, to reflect God's joy in all the earth, beginning with this little bit of "earth" my own life, my own body (ADAM was made from the ADAMAH, Genesis 2:7).

As we do so we join with all creation in praise of His glory. Listen to how this amazing psalm 148 works. Maybe close your eyes and picture yourself in an incredibly beautiful place outside. Maybe you can see El Capitan, maybe you see yourself on the beach looking way out, maybe you see a dandelion... Gaze as I read Psalm 148:

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens,

and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for he commanded and they were created.

He established them for ever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.^[a]

Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost,

stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike,

old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for his name alone is exalted;

his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people,

praise for all his faithful,

for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

NRSVUK

When we “hallow God’s name” we are drawn by the Father’s joy into unspeakable beauty. We behold the glory. We want to make it so in our bodies, our lives and in our world.

As Irenaeus said almost 2,000 years ago,

“The glory of the Lord is human being fully alive.”

Irenaeus

WALK THE TALK

1. Go outside and join with creation, in which you are of vital importance, and praise God from who all blessings flow.
2. Practice hallowing by helping, serving, reflecting our Father’s joy and His Son’s risen life somewhere this week.
3. YA Conference date changed to 2/28-3/1. Thanks to eight who have signed up. Still could use more help!

Let’s pray the Lord’s Prayer together. A different translation each time. In a different position or posture each time. This time, standing, hands out if you want to...

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

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

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who have trespassed against us/.

And lead us not into temptation.

But deliver us from evil.

*For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.*

Amen.

BLESSING

NOTES

Wonderful Bible Project video on the Lord's Prayer

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/lords-prayer/>

To “hallow” God’s “name” is to pray both for God to make Himself known, and to make ourselves available as His means for doing this. We join with all the now groaning creation. (Romans 8).

-See Ezekiel 36:23-35 begins, “***I will sanctify my great name...*** (but read on through ch. 37- check 37:27 where the “dwelling place shall be OVER them”= sanctuary/temple is no longer a building but the entire earth.

-Isaiah 11:9- “***They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.***”

-Numbers 14:21- “***Then the Lord said, ‘I do forgive, just as you asked; nevertheless- as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord- ...’***”

-Martin Shaw is a storyteller, a mythologist by trade, teaches at Stanford as well as many other places. About four years ago he became a follower of Jesus. Ever since he’s been doing a lot of thinking and writing about life with Christ. For example, this on beauty from Martin Shaw.

“The trouble with beauty is that it is seen as generic, ornamental, vacuous. That it’s a long resolved set of ideals that create hierarchy of value lacking nuance and depth. That at some point, early on, we were exposed to what beauty is meant to be and we came up lacking. Some elitist glitter that makes us hate our own bodies and creates cookie-cutter movies, buildings, clothes and general mindset. It’s beauty not as an inner realization but a rather vacuous rule of thumb. This is the kind of thing that gets us folding our wingspan to hide our own appearance. It’s beauty-as-tyranny. It’s going to create a long, dragonish tale that it drags behind it.”

But there is another kind of trouble tucked away. An encounter with beauty opens a door to both delight and longing. We witness for a moment what stands behind Isolde- described as having a beauty that makes other people more beautiful when they behold her. It’s infectious... Something cracks open; as diverse as weather patterns or the movement of birds. This is beauty as eruption from the interior not an outer set of visual conditions. Beauty in all its unexpected, diverse and quixotic manifestations... It may be more accurate to say ‘beauty has them’ than, ‘they are beautiful’.- We witness what stands behind them, that they somehow, stand for. And that

encourages us in turn to find out what we stand for, how we will earn our name, what will be our art and skill. To be infected in such a wonderful way may bring the poet's realization to our door: that we have to change our life."

Edgar Allen Poe said beauty is not a quality but an effect.

This kind of beauty is the waking up kind.

Notes on how our brains are made, how they work. Right-Left-Right. We live in culture that has prioritized taking the flower apart...

Holiness is beautiful. Are we repulsed or are we *drawn* by holiness? We feel intense curiosity. Here is an adventure (Bilbo). *Hallowing God's name is stepping toward God's joy.*

Hallowing is all about making my prayer, as Jesus teaches, to begin with all about God.

More Shaw,

"Beauty as a word has Anglo-French connections (beute) to not just attractiveness but goodness and courtesy, so it has a relationship to how we behave, and how we behave can be refined over time. So we can become more beautiful, more aligned to grace, more mannered, without losing our authentic ground. It's beautiful to be less selfish."

The longer we live, the more we have seen, the more by thousands of contrasts of experiences, we can see true, real, enduring beauty. Shaw, *"I'm swifter at recognizing it, and praise for the encounter is hopefully quicker from my lips. I recognize beauty in the limit of my choices as I age, because in that limit I often recognize depth which is doorway to beauty."*

"Sanctification is like the growth of fruit which results in eternal life". It is God himself who sanctifies (I Thess. 5:23: **"May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely** [AUTOS DE O THEOS TAIS EREMAIS HAGIASAI HOLOTELEIS]; **and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound** [HOLOKLERON-complete, whole] **and blameless at the**

coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.” (I Thess. 5:23-34)

Our participation in God’s holiness is possible only in Christ (Messiah) through His offering of His life in the blood of the covenant once for all.. It is Jesus alone who knows what it will require for the shining.

To join in with all creation as a reflection, manifestation, of God’s great joy, of His love, wisdom and great power (Rev. 5:11-13; Pss, 104; 148)

***-“Bless the Lord, O my soul
O Lord my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honor and majesty,
Wrapped in light a with a garment...***

***...You set the earth on its foundations,
So that it will never be shaken...”***

(Ps. 104:1-5)

Jeremias reconstructs Jesus’ prayer this way: *“Exalted and hallowed be his great name in the world which he created according to his will. May he let his kingdom rule in your lifetime and in your days and in the lifetime of the whole house of Israel, speedily and so on. And to this, say amen.”* (The Prayers of Jesus, 1967, 98).

God created in love all things, including humankind.

God saw that all creation was very TOB (good, beautiful!)

Creation was holy, and one Day will be once again.

[“The covenant is God’s determination to deal with evil once and for all and so put the whole creation (and humankind with it) right at last.” (N.T. Wright, Justification p. 95)]

[What shines through the Second Window in Jesus’ House of Prayer is sheer beauty.]

Two things. On “hallowing” and not “hollowing”! Note this!! More on this when our Lord brings us into the Fifth Window, on Freedom. But we begin here, in these first two windows. Joy and Beauty, without denying our deep problem.

As N.T. Wright says, to pray Hallowed be Your Name from where we stand (just look around, look at your own life, and mine- consider the wreckage from these fires) this is to pray that His name, His presence, purpose, be honored and worshipped by “your whole creation; may the whole cosmos resound with your praise; may the whole world be freed from injustice, disfigurement, sin, and death, and may your name be hallowed. And as we stand in the presence of the living God, with the darkness and pain of the world on our hearts, praying that he will fulfill his ancient promises, and implement the victory of Calvary and Easter for the whole cosmos- then we may discover that our own pain, our own darkness, is somehow being dealt with as well.” (The Lord and His Prayer, p. 22)

The second thing, is

[Notes here on how our brains work: bottom to top (spinal cord to brainstem to limbic circuitry, to prefrontal cortex, right brain to left brain) Thompson p. 170.]

What happens when we encounter beauty? Because that’s what happens- there is an *encounter*. I love Curt Thompson’s take on what happens: Wonder leading to welcoming others (“Hey! Come and see this!”). Beauty can drop us to our knees in worship. We know we have to change, work for change in ourselves, in this world God called TOB.