

Lord's Prayer versus Psalm 22

Differences: The Lord's Prayer

- as mentioned in the task introduction, the only evidence of praise occurs in the opening sentence
- the Lord's Prayer consists mainly of petitions which are not embedded in laments
- the Lord's Prayer states a couple petitions relating to forgiveness "and forgive us our trespasses"; "as we forgive those who trespass against us" this demonstrates as Guinan describes raising our mind and hearts to God

Differences: Psalm 22 Plea for deliverance from suffering and hostility

- while the Lord's Prayer is comprised of one praise and several petitions, Psalm 22 begins with lament, followed by several petitions, and concludes with praise
- a glaring difference is the absence of petition to seek personal forgiveness from God as well as for the capacity to forgive others which is very present in the Lord's Prayer

Similarities

- both Lord's Prayer and Psalm 22 commence by demonstrating respect, reverence and intimate relationship with God
- both demonstrate praise for God by utilizing the terms "hallowed and holy" when referring to God.
- both petition "God's will" will be carried out on Earth

Reflection Similarities and Difference in “The Lord’s Prayer” and Psalm 22

Reflecting on the similarities and differences identified in the Lord’s Prayer and Psalm 22 it becomes more evident how the two prayers are varied from each other. Primarily accounting for this difference is the powerful presence of the laments and how contrasting it’s tone when compared to what I have conceived as prayer. Guinean (nd) refers to laments as a “religious Ouch”. I found this to be very evident when reading the Lord’s Prayer versus Psalm 22. Both as for forgiveness and strength and deliverance from evil, but in two very dissimilar ways. Psalm 22 asks through laments of agony and suffering while the Lord’s Prayer uses petitions. When reading the Lord’s Prayer I felt as a servant, open to trust our God to lead us to do His will on Earth. Reading Psalm 22 I felt almost the opposite. The negative tone was not familiar to my conceptualizations or upbringing of how prayer should sound. This negative tone I felt is reinforced by Guinean (nd) as he says, many of us are uncomfortable with these raw emotions and we think, at times, that it is wrong to express them. This was the Catholic culture in my household growing up. Prayer was in the form of praise. Psalms were not a part of our daily prayer in our household. Even though Guinean (nd) states that laments are a constructive way to deal with these negative feelings, I feel that my parent felt that the negative tone was too powerful to be exposed especially during the imperishable yearly years of childhood.

How the Lord’s Prayers Reflects a Distinctively Christian Outlook

The Lord’s Prayer reflects a distinctively Christian outlook as it employs several different types of prayer and it is what Jesus taught his disciples when he taught them how to pray in Matthew 6:5-14. The Lord’s Prayer is a celebration of God’s goodness and kingdom through the teachings of Jesus, ‘Thy kingdom come thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven’. Here God is open and inviting to change of heart in those who do not yet follow God’s will. Reinforcing the gospel teaching to spread the good word to all mankind, to give and forgive so that God’s will be alive on in man on Earth. While the prayer makes no direct mention of Jesus, his teachings are embedded throughout the prayer.

References

Guinan, M. (nd). The Book of Psalms: Prayers for Everyday Living. *St. Anthony Messenger*. Retrieved from <http://www.americancatholic.org/messenger/jan2005/feature2.asp> 14 February 2016.