



The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord's Prayer

By John Dominic Crossan

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In *The Greatest Prayer*, foremost historical Jesus scholar John Dominic Crossan, bestselling author of *Historical Jesus* and *Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography*, intimately explores the revolutionary meaning of the cornerstone of Christian faith: The Lord's Prayer. `<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />`

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

No prayer is better known in the Christian world than the Lord's Prayer, taught by Jesus to His disciples as they listened to Him preach about the Kingdom of God. Crossan, co-founder of The Jesus Seminar and acclaimed author of many works on the life and mission of Jesus Christ, writes to answer the question, "How can we who live today hear the words of the Lord's Prayer in ways that reflect the concerns of His immediate hearers and impact our lives 2,000 years later?" Delving deeply into the story of the Jewish nation in Jesus' time, Crossan shows how Jesus, couched in the words of this prayer, advises His followers to reject violent methods of resisting their Roman captors, and instead work for the coming of the Kingdom of God, the only way to achieve true freedom. The theme of nonviolence permeates this book and becomes the foundation for Crossan's understanding, not only of the Lord's Prayer, but also of a variety of extra-biblical sources he references to support his thesis. A fine effort by a fine scholar. (Sept.) (c)

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From [Booklist](#)

Noted biblical scholar Crossan takes a fresh look at the Lord's Prayer, also called the Our Father and the Abba Prayer. Prayed by Christians of all denominations and doctrinal persuasions, yet mentioning none of the issues that divide them, it is certainly Christianity's official prayer and surely its greatest. Crossan takes key words from the prayer (Father, name, kingdom, will, bread, debt, and temptation), examines their meaning in a biblical context, and concludes that it is a revolutionary manifesto, proclaiming nonviolence and distributive justice. This seemingly radical exegesis will be as welcome to some as it is disconcerting to others. Even if one disagrees with the author's conclusions, it will be difficult to dislike his book, as one of Crossan's gifts is his ability to challenge his readers in a gentle, respectful, and nonconfrontational manner. -
-Christopher McConnell

Review

"...A must-read, a guidebook for how and why the only prayer Jesus ever taught endures." (The Daily Beast)

"Even if one disagrees with the author's conclusions, it will be difficult to dislike his book, as one of Crossan's gifts is his ability to challenge his readers in a gentle, respectful, and nonconfrontational manner." (Booklist)

"John Dominic Crossan is arguably the world's foremost scholar of the historical Jesus. In *The Greatest Prayer*, Crossan argues that Christianity's best-known invocation is misunderstood and undervalued in today's society." (Religion News Service)

Crossan... shows how Jesus, couched in the words of this prayer, advises His followers to reject violent methods... and instead work for the coming of the Kingdom of God, the only way to achieve true freedom. . . . A fine effort by a fine scholar." (Publishers Weekly)

"A full and loving exposition... of Christianity's best-known and most-recited prayer. Crossan's pastoral intent is more straightforward here than in some of his other works; scholars will appreciate the richness of his readings, while nonscholarly readers will be grateful for the directness and clarity of his approach." (Library Journal (starred review))

“Crossan’s reflections reveal something that may surprise his detractors: a man of profound and challenging faith, who in his efforts to demystify Jesus has called us all back to the core of the gospel message.” (U.S. Catholic)

“[P]rovides a satisfying blend of history, scholarship and theology in researching the moral responsibilities that come with living a Godly life. The fundamental Lord’s Prayer here serves as a foundation for examining the principles of this life.” (Midwest Book Review)

“Controversial biblical scholar John Dominic Crossan finds in Jesus’ words an evocation for ‘distributive justice,’ making sure all are cared for.” (Los Angeles Times)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lewis Labelle:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book allowed The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord's Prayer? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have other opinion?

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Carmen Vasquez:

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