

# Archbishop of York Says Lord's Prayer Delivered by Jesus 2,000 Years Ago May be Problematic

by [Jim Hoft](#) [688 Comments](#)

## The Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:5-15*

5 “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But **when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.**

7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 **Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.** 9 Pray then like this:

“**Our Father** in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.[a]  
10 Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,[b]  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
11 Give us this day our daily bread,[c]  
12 and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
13 And lead us not into temptation,  
14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15  
but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will **your Father** forgive your  
trespasses.



The Archbishop of York announced in a recent address to the Church that the 2,000-year-old Lord's Prayer may be "problematic" because of its patriarchal association.

The Lord's Prayer opens with "Our Father" – Archbishop Stephen Cottrell believes Jesus made a mistake.

What an ignorant heathen.

The archbishop of York has suggested that opening words of the Lord's Prayer, recited by Christians all over the world for 2,000 years, may be "problematic" because of their patriarchal association.

In his opening address to a meeting of the Church of England's ruling body, the General Synod, Stephen Cottrell dwelt on the words "Our Father", the start of the prayer based on Matthew 6:9–13 and Luke 11:2–4 in the New Testament.

"I know the word 'father' is problematic for those whose experience of earthly fathers has been destructive and abusive, and for all of us who have laboured rather too much from an oppressively patriarchal grip on life," he said.

His comment – a brief aside in a speech that focused on the need for unity – will divide members of the C of E, a body whose differences on issues of sexuality, identity and equality have been highly visible for years.

After Cottrell's speech, Canon Dr Chris Sugden, chair of the conservative Anglican Mainstream group, pointed out that in the Bible Jesus urged people to pray to "our father".

He said: "Is the archbishop of York saying Jesus was wrong, or that Jesus was not pastorally aware? It seems to be emblematic of the approach of some church leaders to take their cues from culture rather than scripture."