

**“Right Praying”**

**Matthew 6:5-13**

**Scripture Ref: Eccl 5:2; John 1:12; Is 55:12; John 6:35;  
James 1:13; 1 Cor 10:13**

- 1. Last week we talked about the motive of our good deeds: Is it to receive the praise of man, or God?**
  - a. Today as we continue, Jesus urges us to examine the motive behind our prayer**
  - b. Why we pray, which affects how we pray!**

***First a Few Warnings***

**Praying to impress others**

5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men.

- 2. What Jesus is warning against is the practice of using prayer to convince others of how “spiritual” we are.**
  - a. The religious leaders, or as Jesus so warmly refers to them as “hypocrites”, would go out into the public places, synagogues and on the corners of the streets**
  - b. And pray great, lengthy prayers, filled with wonderful and versed statements - Impressive they were.**
- 3. Today we don’t have the same social setting, but we can have the same situation**
  - a. Praying with words and statements that are chosen to have the maximum impact...**
    - i. “Oh Lord God Jesus, Mighty and Omnipotent One”**
  - b. Some people (not you!) have a need to be seen as spiritual, and so they will “spruce up” their prayers with words and statements that are, in fact, intended to impress people – not God.**
  - c. That is what Jesus calls, again, hypocrisy**
  - d. And unfortunately, the reward of people thinking they are spiritual is the only thing that will come of their prayers...**

Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

- 4. But here is a question – have you ever prayed out loud with others, and had a moment where you were conscious of what you were saying?**
  - a. Perhaps you even had a little concern that you might not say the right thing, or sound spiritual?**

- b. **Guess what – probably everyone has! It is part of our human weakness to have a moment of thought or concern.**
  - c. **It doesn't make you a bad Christian, it just means that for a moment you took your focus off of God and put it on man.**
5. **Here is the thing – I believe Jesus is telling us two things:**
- a. **#1 – God is not looking for eloquent words and lofty statements**
  - b. **#2 – Prayer is simply communication with God, not others!**

6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

6. **Jesus is talking about our personal time of prayer – where it's just you and God, no one else.**
- a. **A good barometer – how does your public prayer compare to your private prayer? They should be the same!**

### **Packaged Prayer**

7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

7. **The thought here is that prayer is not a gimmick...**
- a. **I remember when the “prayer of Jabez” fad hit, everybody was praying the prayer of Jabez**
  - b. **Now don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with the prayer of Jabez, it's a biblical prayer...**
  - c. **But come on, do I really need a prayer of Jabez prayer shawl?**
    - i. **Goes with my POJ Throw-pillow, and my POJ cup, sitting on my POJ coaster...**
8. **Bottom line – praying a specific prayer does not bring a better result**
- a. **God is not a genie. Rub the lamb a certain way and “poof”, instant answered prayer.**
  - b. **In the same way - chanting repetitive prayers does not bring a better result.**
9. **What Jesus is telling us is so clear and simple: God knows what your needs are, before you even ask Him.**
- a. **It's not like He has forgotten, and you have to remind him about your situation!**

*Eccl 5:2 Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few.*

**10. So how do we pray?**

***The Model Prayer***

9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven,

**God's Person**

**11. This opening would have been a shock to those sitting around, because the average Jewish person did not call God "Father"**

- a. They might call Him Elohim "The Strong One", El Shaddai "The Mighty One", Yahweh "The unspeakable name"
- b. But Father, or more "papa, daddy"? How could Jesus change how God was addressed, did God change?
- c. No – We did!

*John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God*

**12. When you became a Christian, you were adopted into the family of God, you became one of his children!**

- a. And because He is now my Father, I can communicate with Him in a relationship that is not just God-man, but Father-son. Big difference!

Hallowed be Your name.

**13. Hallowed means "to make holy" – or literally "Let Your name be made Holy"**

- a. While that might seem – obvious – in some ways I think it is a concept that has been lost from the lives of some Christians.
- b. In that too often they have become holy in their own eyes,
- c. Not in the sense that they think they are God, but in the sense that the most supreme thing in their life is... themselves.

**14. But when we say "Hallowed be Your name" in the spiritual sense, it it becomes a declarative statement "in my heart, as far as I'm concerned, You are Holy God"**

- a.

*Isa 55:12 The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*

**God's Purpose**

10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

15. There are only two kinds of people: Those who are in harmony with God's purpose and say "Thy will be done", and those who live for themselves and say "my will be done."
- a. Guess what, God is fair – terrifyingly so – in that if you say "my will be done", then He will allow you to make that choice.
  - b. Every person must make a choice, will I submit to God, or do I expect God to submit to me?
  - c. Does that sound strange to say, for "God to submit to me?"
  - d. Well, for the Christian who is not submitted to the will of God, that is exactly what we are saying, even if not in such direct terms.
  - e. When we say "God I would like this and that, and would you make this happen" – are we not directing God?
16. Here is a refreshing change "Lord, YOUR kingdom come..."
- a. IOW – God help me to be aligned with that YOU want to do
    - i. I want to participate in ushering in Your kingdom!
    - ii. Tell me what to do, and I'll do it!
  - b. "Lord let Your will be done here on earth – (and guess what, if we are seeking Him, and obeying Him, it will!)"
  - c. Just like it already is in heaven!
  - d. Heaven already has it figured out – God's way is the BEST way. God's will is the BEST plan.

**God's Provision**

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

17. I love this because it shows me that God cares about the small needs that I have – even my daily food. He cares!
18. Why not just pray "Lord, can you cover this year?" or at least a month! Why a day?
- a. I can't speak for God, but it would seem that if He were to cover me for a year, I might not come back to talk to Him for another year.
  - b. Ever notice something: Once your children become self-sufficient, you only hear from them once-in-a-while.
19. So.... God wants to keep us needing Him... so we have to always come begging?
- a. No, actually prayer IS our greatest need.
  - b. He does not need us – We need Him.

- c. **Jesus said in John 6:35 “I am the bread of life” – HE is our daily bread!**

**God’s Pardon**

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

**20. Do you know what is in Christianity that is not in ANY other religion?**

- a. **Forgiveness of sin!**
- b. **Our sin is buried in the sea of God’s forgiveness, never to be washed up again.**

**21. And that extends to others...**

- a. **When we realize FIRST that God has forgiven us, how can we not forgive others?**

**God’s Protection**

13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.

**22. We know from James that God never “tempts” anyone with evil...**

*James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.*

- a. **God won’t put a situation in front of you to see if you will sin.**
- b. **What God will do is give you an out...**

*1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

- c. **So it is good to ask God to protect us from the enemy, and if Satan does try and tempt us, to give us an out – an escape door!**
- d. **It has been rightly said that Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees – for there is no victory for him there.**

**23. And notice something about this prayer – the word “I” or “my” or “me” is not in it. No singular pronouns.**

- a. **It’s “US”, “OUR”, “WE”**
- b. **What does this tell me? That prayer is communal, in that we are to be praying for one another!**

**God's Preeminence**

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**24. This prayer ends with an explosion of praise!**

- a. It literally means “everything – the full weight and substance of all that there is – is all yours God!
- b. And You are Lord and King over it all! So be it!

**25. One thing I want to leave you with today: Prayer is about relationship**

- a. It is not about figuring out the right method, or the right phrases, of the right number of times per day.
- b. It's about developing relationships... Relationship with others ...
  - i. God cares about all of His children, and He wants us to care about them too.
  - ii. So we are to be including them in our prayers – not just praying for ourselves.
- c. Our relationship with God – He desires that we come to Him daily, not so He can prove that we cant make it on our own
  - i. But so that we can develop a relationship with our Creator

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