

**LEADERSHIP/MISSIONS
WHEN YOU PRAY**

A Lecture & Lesson on Public and Private Prayer

The Words of Jesus (***Matt. 6:5-13***)

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TO KNOW HOW TO PROPERLY PRAY, WE MUST FIRST TAKE NOTE OF WHAT PRAYER IS NOT.

PRAYER SHOULD NOT BE:

- A FORM OF **POSTURING**
 - PRAYER IS NOT INTENDED TO IMPRESS OR MISLEAD OTHERS.

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

TWO PLACES IN JESUS' TIME THAT THE HYPOCRITES WOULD PRAY DURING THE APPOINTED TIMES OF PRAYER (9AM, NOON, 3PM)

- **STANDING IN SYNAGOGUES**
 - THESE HYPOCRITES DID NOT HAVE A REGIMENTED PRIVATE PRAYER LIFE.
 - THEY PARTLY BELIEVED THEY COULD ONLY BE HEARD BY GOD IN THE SYNAGOGUE.
 - THEY ATTEMPTED TO OFFER ELABORATE PRAYERS THERE HOPING TO IMPRESS GOD AND THE PEOPLE.
- **ON THE CORNERS OF THE STREETS**
 - THESE HYPOCRITES WERE OVERLY CONCERNED WITH IMPRESSING THE PUBLIC.
 - THEY **LOVED** PRAYING ONLY WHERE THEY COULD BE SEEN. HOPING TO APPEAR CLOSER TO GOD BY THOSE PASSING BY.
- **THEY HAVE THEIR REWARD**
 - THEIR ONLY REWARD IS EXACTLY WHAT THEY WERE SEEKING, ATTENTION.

Posturing in prayer never gains the ear, let alone approval of God.

What good is a posturing prayer that impresses man but insults God?

JESUS GIVES STRICT AND SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW HIS DISCIPLES SHOULD PRAY.

“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.”

THE IMPORTANCE OF A PRIVATE AND INTIMATE PRAYER LIFE IS STRESSED HERE.

WHEN YOU PRAY:

- **GO INTO YOUR ROOM**
 - JESUS SPEAKS IN THIS MANNER TO STRESS A PRAYER LIFE THAT LITERALLY CAN IMPRESS NO ONE BUT GOD.
- **PRAY TO THE FATHER WHO IS IN THE SECRET PLACE**
 - THE FATHER CANNOT BE SEEN WITH THE PHYSICAL EYE. THEREFORE, PRAYING IN SECRET SHOULD BE AN ACT OF GREAT FAITH (*Hebrews 11:1*)
- **THE FATHER WHO SEES IN SECRET WILL REWARD YOU OPENLY**
 - THIS REWARD IS DIFFERENT THAN THAT PROMISED TO THE HYPOCRITES.
 - THIS REWARD IS THE PUBLIC MANIFESTATION OF GOD AND HIS BLESSINGS IN THE LIFE OF THE ONE WHO HAS BUILT A REAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM IN PRIVATE.

Jesus is not condemning public prayer here. He in fact teaches and supports public prayer (Matthew 18:19-20).

Here Jesus is teaching that private prayer is vital to secure growth in relationship, and prevent the liability of pride, hypocrisy, and vanity when publicly praying.

JESUS AGAIN REFERS TO THINGS THAT HIS DISCIPLES SHOULD REMEMBER NOT TO DO WHILE PRAYING.

“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. “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.”

WHEN YOU PRAY:

- **DO NOT USE VAIN REPETITIONS**
 - THIS IS SPEAKING TO PRAYERS THAT ARE MERELY LIP SERVICE WITH NO TRUE FAITH OR SECURITY IN GOD (**VAIN BABBLING**)
 - THIS IS THE PRAYER LIFE OF THE HEATHEN. (*1 Kings 18:26, Acts 19:34*)

- **YOUR FATHER KNOWS WHAT YOU NEED BEFORE YOU ASK HIM**
 - PRAYER IS NOT TO INFORM GOD, BUT COMMUNE WITH HIM AND APPEAL TO HIS THRONE.
 - PRAYER HUMBLER THE HEART OF MAN, STRENGTHEN HIS FAITH, AND IGNITE THE FIRE OF GOD IN HIM.

It's easy to fall into the trap of praying "just because".

THE MODEL PRAYER

JESUS GIVES GIVES THE PROPER WAY OF PRAYER AS OPPOSED TO FALLING VICTIM TO POSTURING VAIN BABBLING.

"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven."

- **OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN**
 - THERE MUST BE A DIRECT RECOGNITION AND REVERENCE FOR GOD
 - JESUS GIVES HIS DISCIPLES UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD (*Isaiah 64:8, Matthew 7:11, Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6, Hebrews 12:9*)
 - PRAYER POINTS THE HEARTS OF MEN TO THE UNIVERSAL DIRECTION OF GOD. HE IS OMNIPRESENT, AND HIS DWELLING PLACE IS IN HEAVEN (*Deuteronomy 4:39, Joshua 2:11, 2 Chronicles 6:21*)
- **HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME**
 - GOD HAS GIVEN A PROMISE TO MAKE HIS NAME HOLY TO THE WORLD AND HIS PEOPLE (*EZEKIEL 36:23-33, John 12:28*)
 - PRAYER PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGES AND WORSHIPS THE DEITY OF GOD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH.
 - THE HEART MUST HAVE A TRUE PASSION FOR GOD'S GLORY (*Psalms 99*)
- **YOUR KINGDOM COME**
 - THIS IS TO PRAY FOR THE KINGDOM AGENDA OF GOD TO BE REVEALED (*1 Chronicles 29:11-12,*
- **YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**
 - THE PRAYER FOR THE WILL OF GOD TO BE DONE IS FOR HIS KINGDOM AGENDA TO BE REVEALED THROUGH HIS PEOPLE
 - THE DISCIPLES PRAYER SHOULD BE ONE THAT DESIRES THE KINGDOM AGENDA OF HEAVEN TO MANIFEST HERE ON EARTH (*Psalms 145:12-13, Luke 17:20-21,*

"Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors."

- **GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD**

- JESUS IS LITERALLY SPEAKING OF THE DAILY PHYSICAL NEEDS OF THE DISCIPLES
- SEEK GOD FOR DAILY PROVISIONS, OR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE *(Psalm 128:2, Proverbs 30:8-9 1 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy 6:8)*.
- **FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS**
 - THE WORD “DEBT” IS MEANT AS SINS.
 - THE REQUEST FOR PARDON OF SIN SHOULD BE DONE DAILY, IF NOT MANY TIMES A DAY.
- **AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS**
 - THE ONE PRAYING MUST GRANT THE SAME PARDON THEY ASK OF GOD
 - THEY ALSO ARE TO PRAY GOD’S FORGIVENESS OF THOSE CONSIDERED TO BE “DEBTORS” *(Psalm 130:3-4, Matthew 5:23-24, Romans 5:8-11, 1 John 4:20)*

“And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

- **DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION**
 - GOD DOES NOT ALLOW TEMPTATION THAT WILL OVERTAKE HIS CHILD. NOR IS HE A FATHER WHO TEMPTS HIS CHILD INTO SIN *(1 Corinthians 10:13, James 1:13)*
 - THE DISCIPLE AWARE OF HIS WEAKNESSES SHOULD PRAY NOT TO BE EXPOSED TO THINGS THEY ARE VULNERABLE TO *(Psalm 37:23, Psalm 119:105)*.
- **DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE**
 - THE SEDUCTIVE POWER OF SATAN
 - REPLICATING THE PRIDEFUL, REBELLIOUS ATTITUDE OF SATAN
 - THE DISCIPLE SHOULD PRAY FOR THE LIGHT OF GOD TO EXPOSE THE WAYS OF THE WICKED ONE SO THAT THEY HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES.
- **YOURS IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY FOREVER.**
 - IT IS DISPUTED THAT THIS DOXOLOGY IS ACTUALLY A PART OF THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT.
 - BUT IT SIMPLY HIGHLIGHTS THE SAME WAY THAT IT IS STATED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PRAYER.
- **AMEN**
 - IT IS SO
 - IT SHALL BE DONE
 - WE AGREE