

## The Sermon on the Mount

### How to Pray, Part 1; Matthew 6:5-8

Reminder: Structure of Matthew 6:1-18: Giving, Matthew 6:2-4; Praying, Matthew 6:5-15; Fasting, Matthew 6:16-18

Matthew 6:2, 5, 16 “So when you give to the poor...When you pray...Whenever you fast...”

All of us should have some aspect of ministry to the poor in our lives. The church should have some aspect of ministry to the poor in our life as a church.

We turn now to the personal righteousness of prayer

Psalm 5:1-3 Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my groaning. Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, for to You I pray. In the morning, O Lord, You will hear my voice; In the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch.

Prayer and Relationship: “Our Father”

Pray out of God's love for us

Pray out of our love for God

When we pray we speak directly to God as we would speak to a parent or friend

Do not pray like this, Matthew 6:5

Matthew 6:5 “When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.”

This is not against any public, corporate or congregational prayer

Luke 11:1 It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples.”

John 11:41-42 So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.”

Acts 2:41-42 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Act 12:5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

Matthew 6:5 “When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.”

Instead, pray like this, Matthew 6:6

Matthew 6:6 “But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”

Hyperbole on giving: “Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing”

Meaning: Be extremely discrete about how you give money so that it is about meeting needs and bringing glory to God and not about impressing others

Hyperbole on praying: “go into your inner room, close your door and pray”

Meaning: Be extremely discrete about how you pray so that it is about your relationship to God and not about impressing others

Matthew 6:6 “But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”

There is eternal reward for the discipline of prayer

Do not pray like this, Matthew 6:7

Matthew 6:7 “And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.”

Meaningless repetition battalogo

Instead, pray like this, Matthew 6:8

Matthew 6:8 “So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”

Pray with the relationship in mind. Pray to God as a loving Father who is all-knowing, all-wise, and actually cares about us.