

"Prayer" Part 1
Mount of Olives | July 20, 2025 | Matthew 6:5-13
Pastor Jim Reynen

Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Father, we pause this morning to reaffirm Your Lordship in our lives. We take off our crowns, lay them before Your throne and submit our wills to Yours. We claim You as our Savior and our God. No matter what may be our circumstances on this earth, we find rest and peace in the assurance that You love us and You desire intimate relationship with each of us. In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:5-13

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever 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. "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

Message Notes

Luke 11:1

"He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

Matthew 6:9-13

"Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one."

2 Corinthians 5:17

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Psalms 100:4

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

Ephesians 5:1

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children

James 4:2

You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask.

Matthew 7:11

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Psalm 86:5

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

Mark 11:25

"Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."

Matthew 5:23-24

So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

James 1:13

No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one.

1 Peter 5:8

Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.

Study Questions – Read Matthew 6:5-13

ICEBREAKER – Getting started:

1. What's one thing you were taught about prayer growing up?
2. If you could ask God one question and get an immediate answer, what would it be?

Based on Matthew 6:5-13, answer the following questions:

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read **Matthew 6:5-13**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?

1. What contrast does Jesus make between public and private prayer in verses 5–6? Why do you think He emphasizes secrecy?
2. What does Jesus say about “babbling like pagans” in verse 7? What do you think He meant by that?
3. Why does Jesus say “your Father knows what you need before you ask Him”? How should that affect our prayers?
4. Why do you think Jesus gave a model prayer rather than specific rules or rituals?
5. What do each of the main parts of the Lord's Prayer (vv. 9–13) teach us about who God is and what we need?
6. What does it mean to pray, “Your kingdom come, your will be done”? How can this shape our desires?
7. Why do you think Jesus included a daily request for bread (v. 11)? What does this teach us about dependence on God?
8. How do the lines about forgiveness (v. 12) challenge us personally? Is it easy or difficult for you to forgive others?
9. “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil” — what does this part of the prayer tell us about our spiritual struggles?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. How does your current prayer life compare to the one Jesus describes here? What might need to change?
2. What distractions or misconceptions about prayer might you need to let go of based on this passage?
3. If you were to rewrite the Lord's Prayer in your own words today, what would it sound like?