

HOW TO PRAY LIKE JESUS

Matthew 6:5-13

In his “Sermon on the Mount” (Chapter 5-7), Jesus teaches his followers many valuable lessons. In chapter 6 those lessons are on giving (vv. 1-4, 19-24), prayer (vv. 5-15), fasting (vv. 16-18) and anxiety (vv. 25-34). This message is focused on prayer. How did Jesus pray? And how did Jesus teach His disciples to pray? And how should we pray if we would follow Jesus’ example?

- I. We should pray **PERSONALLY** (v. 6 “... go into your inner room, close the door...”)
 - A. Jesus prayed often **ALONE**. (Matthew 14:23)
 - B. Jesus prayed often **AT LENGTH**. (Luke 6:12)
 - C. Jesus prayed the **WILL OF THE FATHER**. (Luke 22:41)
- II. We should pray **PLAINLY** (v. 7 “...do not use meaningless repetitions as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.”)
 - A. We use fewer words when we are praying **TO THE RIGHT GOD**. (1 Kings 18:26)
 - B. We use fewer words when we are praying **WITH THE RIGHT INTENT**. (Malachi 2:17)
- III. We should pray **PRACTICALLY** (vv. 8-13, esp. v. 9a “Pray, then, in this way...”)
 - A. We pray with **REVERENCE**. (v. 9 “Hallowed be Your name.”)
(Acknowledge in your prayer the absolute holiness and sovereignty of God over your life.)
 - B. We pray with **RELEVANCE**. (v. 10 “Your kingdom come...on earth”)
(Relate your prayer to the “kingdom work” of God in your own life.)
 - C. We pray with **RELIANCE**. (v. 11 “Give us this day our daily bread.”)
(Receive in your prayer the practical provision of God for your life.)
 - D. We pray with **REPENTANCE**. (v. 12 “forgive us our debts.”)
(Admit in your prayer your need for God’s forgiveness in your life.)
 - E. We pray with **READINESS**. (v. 13 “deliver us from evil.”)
(Accept in your prayer the deliverance of God from the sinfulness in your life.)
 - F. We pray with **RESOLUTION**. (v. 13 “Yours is the kingdom, power, glory, forever.”)
(Elevate in your prayer the position and glory of God over your life.)

In this “model prayer” we hear from Jesus Himself how we should pray. From the gospels in general we discover that Jesus prayed like this. Therefore, it behooves us to pray **PERSONALLY, PLAINLY AND PRACTICALLY** when we come before the Lord. Jesus said, “Pray, then, in this way...” (v. 9a). Pray, then, like Jesus prayed.