

Kingdom Citizens –The Sermon on the Mount-Lesson 11

Women of Grace | GraceLife Church

“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. 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.

“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. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. --Matthew 6:5-8

Day 1—Verse 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. --Matthew 6:5

1. Jesus does not begin this section with a command to pray, but rather an assumption that you are praying. Why is that so significant?
2. Why were those described as hypocrites praying in the synagogues and on street corners?
3. Who was the Pharisee’s intended audience?

- a. Who should our audience be?
4. What is the reward for those who pray to be seen?
5. What is the heart motivation of the one who prays to be seen?
6. What is the cure for this type of heart condition? Use Scripture to support your answer.

Day 2—Verse 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. --Matthew 6:6

1. Is Jesus condemning public prayer? Why or why not?

2. What does *your Father who is in secret* mean? What does it mean that our Father sees in secret?

a. What does “in secret” indicate about our relationship with God?

3. What are some things that might distract us from prayer?

4. Who is our example of private prayer? Use Scripture to support your answer.

5. List some practical things we can do so that we can have a private time of prayer with our Father.

6. If we are to pray in secret, why did Daniel do what he did in Daniel 6:10?

7. How will we be rewarded by our Father for our prayers to him?

Heart Check

- Does secret/private prayer make up the majority of your prayer life? Are there things you need to eliminate from your life so you have more time to pray?

Day 3—Verse 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. --Matthew 6:7

1. Who are the Gentiles and who are they praying to?

2. What does it mean to use meaningless repetition in prayer?

- a. Can you find an example of meaningless prayer by the Gentiles in Scripture?
 - b. Where do you see this pagan practice today?
3. How does this verse subtly warn us of influence of the world?
4. How might we be guilty of meaningless repetition in prayer?
5. Go back to our first lessons from Matthew 5. Which things that we learned there will help us to fulfill Jesus commands here?
6. What is the difference between persistent, unceasing prayer and meaningless repetition in prayer?

7. How should we pray?

- a. Is it wrong to pray prayers that someone else wrote and prayed (e.g., The Valley of Vision)?

8. How does Christ's command here refute the modern practice of speaking in tongues?

Heart check:

- When you pray do you use meaningless repetition?
- When you sing to God in worship, are you engaged with what you are singing or do you mindlessly sing?
- What do you believe about prayer (length, content, repetition, etc.).

Day 4—Verse 8

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

1. How does this verse connect back to verse 7?

2. Who are we not to be like?
 - a. Why does the church have a tendency to look like the world?

 - b. What is the right way to pray?

3. What attributes of God do we see in this verse?

4. Since God knows what we need before we ask, why do we need to pray?
5. What should be our heart attitude when we pray?
 - a. What should be our motivation when we pray?
6. How can God knowing what we need be motivation for us to pray?
7. How can knowing God sees all be motivation for us to continually come to Him?

Heart check:

- Which reward are you looking for in prayer: the reward of the praise of men or the reward from God?

Day 5—Questions on prayer.

1. What is the definition of prayer?
2. In your own words, what do these verses teach us about prayer?
 - a. Jeremiah 33: 3
 - b. Matthew 26:41
 - c. John 15:7
 - d. Romans 8:26
 - e. Colossians 4:2

f. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

g. 1 John 5:14

3. Why should we pray?

4. Choose one or two prayers from Scripture. In your own words spend 3-5 minutes praying them back to God, expanding on the content of them, or praying for someone you love (for example, pray Colossians 1:9-11 for GLC).

Dig Deeper:

1. For further reading: <https://www.chapellibrary.org/book/vprafg/vital-prayer>
<https://www.chapellibrary.org/book/tptp/true-prayer--true-power-spurgeoncharlesh>
2. Use our prayer book to help you with your prayer life: <https://gracelife.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2019.02.14-2-Prayer-Booklet.pdf>