



SERMON NOTES & PERSONAL/GROUP STUDY

Sunday, November 1

PASSAGE

Matthew 6:5-15

THEME

PRAYER

NOTES

→ WHAT PRAYER IS NOT...

- ◆ A WISH LIST of things that you want to happen
- ◆ GET OUT OF JAIL FREE CARD
- ◆ MAGIC GENIE IN A LAMP

→ WHAT PRAYER IS...

- ◆ Communication between a person and a holy God
- ◆ A TWO-WAY RELATIONSHIP in which a person should not only TALK TO GOD, but also LISTEN TO HIM.

→ WHY SHOULD A PERSON PRAY?

- ◆ A CHRISTIAN'S PRAYER LIFE is what keeps you connected to God and His will and purpose for your life -- PRAYER is the MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITY IN YOUR LIFE.
- ◆ It SHOWS OUR DEPENDENCE ON GOD rather than YOURSELF.
- ◆ Just as a child would seek HELP -- GUIDANCE -- PROTECTION -- WISDOM -- PROVISION from his father -- it is natural for a CHILD OF GOD to do the same with their HEAVENLY FATHER.

V. 5 --

- Jesus told the disciples -- "WHEN YOU PRAY..." -- He didn't say "IF YOU PRAY..." -- Jesus was telling His disciples that HE EXPECTED THEM TO TALK & LISTEN TO GOD through PRAYER.
- But Jesus also told them that they were NOT TO PRAY TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THEMSELVES -- all attention needs to be focused on God.

V. 6 --

- Then Jesus gives instructions about PREPARING TO PRAY -- FIND A QUIET PLACE away from everyone where there are NO DISTRACTIONS so that you will NOT BE INTERRUPTED when you are talking to your Heavenly Father.

V. 7 --

- Jesus is saying DON'T BE SO CONCERNED WITH TRYING TO SAY THE RIGHT THING -- GOD KNOWS YOUR HEART regardless of what comes out of your mouth.
- Did you know that the Holy Spirit prays to God on your behalf -- Romans 8:26-27
- JESUS DOES NOT DISCOURAGE PUBLIC PRAYER -- He just discourages MEANINGLESS WORDS THAT ARE SAID TO IMPRESS PEOPLE rather than coming from A GENUINE HEART in need of God's help.

V. 8 --

- God takes into consideration WHAT IS BEST FOR A PERSON AT THAT MOMENT and in the GRAND SCHEME of things --the answer may be YES -- NO -- or NOT RIGHT NOW.

V. 9 --

- This is called the MODEL PRAYER or LORD'S PRAYER -- it does NOT include everything we are to pray for -- but it is an example to follow for prayer.

V. 9 --

- Jesus uses the term FATHER when addressing God in prayer because IT IS A PERSONAL TERM -- it helps you remember that YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER WANTS WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU -- He sees the BIG PICTURE & KNOWS WHAT YOU NEED IN THAT MOMENT.
- Honoring God's name as HOLY should remind you to TAKE A POSTURE OF REVERENCE & HUMILITY WHEN APPROACHING GOD IN PRAYER -- not come to God IRREVERENTLY -- come to God with the awe and respect that He deserves!
- Hebrews 5:7

V. 10 --

- Ask God to GROW HIS KINGDOM THROUGHOUT THE EARTH and USE YOU IN DOING SO as Jesus commands us in ACTS 1:8 and MATTHEW 28:19-20.

- Ask God for HIS WILL TO BE DONE IN YOUR LIFE & ON EARTH -- His will is PERFECT -- He has a PERFECT PLAN -- He has PERFECT TIMING -- and He KNOWS WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE to accomplish it.
- Isaiah 55:8-9
- 1 John 5:14-15

V. 11 --

- Daily bread represents OUR DAILY NEEDS FOR EACH DAY -- God already knows what we need PHYSICALLY -- SPIRITUALLY -- EMOTIONALLY.
- You must acknowledge God as SUSTAINER & PROVIDER -- we deceive ourselves if we think WE CAN PROVIDE FOR OUR OWN NEEDS -- we must TRUST THAT GOD WILL PROVIDE DAILY what we need.

V. 12, 14-15 --

- If you are a born-again believer YOUR SINS ARE ALREADY FORGIVEN -- PAST -- PRESENT -- & FUTURE -- but this is a reminder that you must DAILY CONFESS SIN IN HUMILITY knowing that you are forgiven.
- FORGIVING SOMEONE and forgetting the wrong BRINGS YOU PEACE and RESTORES JOY TO YOUR LIFE -- it GIVES YOU YOUR LIFE BACK!
- JESUS SAID -- if you forgive, God will forgive you -- if you don't forgive, God will NOT forgive you.

V. 13 --

- When we are tempted God PROMISES that HE WILL PROVIDE A WAY OUT -- but WE MUST CHOOSE HIS WAY OUT.
- 1 Corinthians 10:13

A FEW PRACTICAL TIPS FOR PRAYING

→ WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE PRAY?

- ◆ Find a QUIET PLACE WITHOUT DISTRACTIONS

→ WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO PRAY?

- ◆ FIND THE TIME YOU ARE MOST ALERT and put that time with God ON YOUR SCHEDULE
- ◆ You may say -- ***"My schedule is way too busy to find time to pray."*** -- you make time in your schedule FOR WHAT IS IMPORTANT -- if HAVING AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER is important to you -- you'll make time to spend with Him -- IF IT'S NOT IMPORTANT -- then you won't.

→ WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO PRAY?

- ◆ Have a PLAN

- Start with a PRAYER LIST
 - Detailed list of FAMILY MEMBERS (spouse & kids) -- FRIENDS -- CO-WORKERS -- NEIGHBORS -- CHURCH -- along with SPECIFIC THINGS you need to pray for on their behalf.
 - Ensures you do not neglect what is important to you
 - Pray for people you promise to pray for
 - Keeps track of answered prayers

METHODS

- **ACTS** -- Adoration -- Confession -- Thanksgiving -- Supplication
- **SMTWTFS** -- take your list and divide it into separate days

HOW SHOULD YOU PRAY?

- Ephesians 6:18 -- IN THE SPIRIT
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17 -- CONSTANTLY
- Philippians 4:6 -- WITH THANKSGIVING

SUMMARY

- PICK A TIME
- PICK A PLACE
- MAKE A LIST
- TALK TO GOD
- LISTEN TO GOD
- BE OBEDIENT

TODAY'S TAKEAWAY

WHEN YOU PRAY -- IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE -- WHEN YOU DON'T PRAY -- IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!