

Lunch Time Bible Study
God With Us
A Study of Matthew: "The Manner of Prayer"
Matthew 6:5-15

March 13, 2018

But when 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. (Matthew 6:6)

I. Pray With Sincerity

- a. Jesus warns not to turn prayer into a theatrical event or to make it only a public display.
- b. If the only time we pray is in public then we must evaluate the sincerity of our prayers.
- c. In Jesus' day, Jews were accustomed to praying three times a day and would stand during prayer.
- d. The passage is not prohibiting audible prayer in public, because Jesus prayed privately and aloud.
- e. We pray to God who listens to what is in our heart before He listens to what comes from our lips.
- f. Gentiles recited/chanted memorized prayers to their idols. Jesus did not give us the "Lord's prayer" to be memorized and recited over and over again.
- g. Jesus did not say "Pray in these words." He said, "Pray then like this." Therefore, Jesus teaches the "prayer" is not a law but a pattern.
- h. The secret place or closet would have been the most inner room in a house. (planned, purposeful)
- i. It is no longer the Holy of Holies that is the special meeting place between God and believers, it is now a room with a lock.

II. Pray the Lord's Prayer as His Disciple's

- a. We can use this prayer as a handrail in forming our own words. Notice there are only plural pronouns in the prayer, it begins with "Our Father." This is a "Kingdom prayer." "Disciple's prayer"
- b. *Hallowed be Your name*...when we pray we are acknowledging God is to be set above us as high and holy. Our main concern in prayer is that God will be God.
- c. *Your kingdom come*...we are praying for the new heaven and the new earth, and the Second Coming of Jesus. We also pray for the present reality of the increase of believers.
- d. *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*...Your teachings be done and lived out in the lives Your people. In heaven God's will is perfectly done, because there is nothing in heaven to hinder it, and this prayer asks for that will to be done here. We pray the power of God.
- e. **Give us this day our daily bread**...The prayer encourages a continuing dependence on God.
- f. **Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors**...recognizes that sinning puts people in the wrong with God and that only He can cancel out the offense and pardon it. We owe to God our full obedience. We have no right to seek forgiveness for our own sins if we are withholding forgiveness from others.
- g. **Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil**...God tempts no one. The believer seeks to be kept far from anything that may bring sin their life.
- h. *"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen."* (KJV) *Doxology-(Gr) doxa*, meaning "opinion" or "glory," and the suffix *-logia*, which refers to oral or written expression. (e.g. Psalm 57:5; Phil 4:20; Eph 3:20-21)
- i. Forgiveness is grounded in fellowship. If we are in fellowship with God, we cannot pray effectively.

III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. Prayer is communication to God from the heart. Jesus knows that believers can draw near to God when they have a little privacy. This is true in all relationships. You just don't share your heart with everybody and everywhere. (Extemporaneous vs. planned/written)
- b. The "secret" prayer does not necessarily mean silent prayer.
- c. Worship – Petition – Confession
- d. Think about this for a moment, the Kingdom needs your prayers. You are connected.