



Encountering God
THROUGH PRAYER

September 29th. through October 4th. 2019

Matthew 6:5-8

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

Matthew 6:9-15

9 “Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 ‘Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 11 ‘Give us this day our daily bread. 12 ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 ‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’ 14 “For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 “But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

Often recited and interpreted as a lesson about technique.

In reality it displays a mode of relationship that helps us know God better and surrender to Him as Lord of our life.

One is about gaining power the other losing it. One breaths life into our old man the other transforms us into His image.

Three Things We Have to Bring With Us When We Pray

- Right motives. In this case, a desire to know God rather than use Him.
 - We can do religious acts to serve God or we can do them to serve ourselves... How do we know why we do what we do?
 - ▶ The acid test is whether or not alone time with God is appealing to us. One makes us big to others the other makes God big to us. Which are we more interested in?
- Right relational approach to God.
 - Jesus speaks of God's Holiness, Kingship, Power and Glory but He refers to God as "Father" 5 times and He starts His model prayer with "Our Father"?.
 - ▶ Good dads have a greater interest in our performance than our bosses but dads don't fire us when we underperform or fail.
- Right relational approach to others.
 - We fail to forgive others because we feel superior to them. We are sinners saved by grace. We fail to forgive when we're independently righteous which cripples our relationship with God.

Three Things That Must Be Present in Our Prayers

- Adoration

- Notice how much time Jesus dedicates to reminding us who God is...

- ▶ He's holy and royal while at the same time being fatherly.

- ▶ He's heavenly yet concerned with the affairs of our daily lives.

- ▶ He's focused on forgiving all our sins but also concerned about the smallest grudge we hold against others.

- ▶ He's eternal, infinitely powerful and full of glory and is willing to use it all to providently guide us for our own good.

- Surrender Before Requests (Not allowed to say "I need" before we say "Your will be done")

- Note: Things like impatience and bitterness are us being convinced that we know what's best for our lives (like a 3 year old melts down when denied what they want).

- Transformation (Humbled and empowered simultaneously)

- Live inspired by God's forgiveness and dependent on God's goodness.

One Thing That Changes Everything About How We Pray

Matthew 26:38-39, 42, 44 and Luke 23:33-34

Then He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.” And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.” ... He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.” ... And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more... When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.