

Sermon on the Mount

Prayer

Points to Consider

1. Pray to the right audience
2. Pray for the right things
3. Pray with the right heart

Pray to the Right Audience

Matt 6:5-7 *And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

The hypocrite's words might address God, but his real audience is _____.
Prayer is a pouring out of our spirit to God. This usually does not happen in

_____.
We typically don't pray _____prayers in public.

Dan 6:10 *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.*

When prayer time came, Daniel went in his _____to pray.
Jesus was referring to people who would make sure they were in a public place when the time of prayer came.
Not only that, they would make sure their prayers lasted _____than everyone else's prayer

Mark 1:35-37 *Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. 36 And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him. 37 When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."*

Jesus knew the importance of spending time _____with God.

Matt 26:36-46 *Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." 39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." 40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." 42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if*

this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." 43 And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. 44 So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. 45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

When Jesus was sorrowful and deeply distressed, he went off by _____ to pray. His intended audience was God and God _____. The apostles should have also sought _____ time with God.

Balance!

John 11:41-44 *Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." 43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."*

Sometimes Jesus did pray _____ for the sake of those around Him. (Jn 12:27-33)

I would not recommend that for us. We are not "preaching" we are praying!

Pray the Right Things

Matt 6:7 *And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.*

The heathens started reciting the _____ things without thought to what they were saying.

_____ repetitions are always the wrong thing to pray.

They thought _____ prayers were better prayers. This led to the vain repetitions.

It's ironic that the model prayer given by Jesus has turned into vain _____.

Matt 6:8 *Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*

We don't need to drone on like the heathens do because God knows what we need _____ we ask Him.

Matt 6:31-33 *Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.*

God already knows we need food, water and clothing. He _____ take care of us.

Balance!

Matt 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.

James 4:2-3 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

Jesus was not teaching that we shouldn't ask God for anything. Some things we must ask for in order to receive.

Luke 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.

Jesus was not teaching that it is wrong to ask for the same thing more than once.

Matt 6:9-13 Our Father 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 forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The prayer starts out by showing _____ for God.
Jesus refers to God as Father.

Matt 5:44-46 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

We can't address God as Father _____ we are treating our enemies correctly.
God's name should be held in _____. (Hallowed by Your name).

2 Kings 19:15-16 Then Hezekiah prayed before the Lord, and said: "O Lord God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

Those who know who God is know the _____ way to address Him.
We should pray that _____ will be done in all things. (Jesus in the Garden)

Matt 6:12-13 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

_____ us from Satan. _____ us when Satan wins.

Pray with the Right Heart

Matt 6:14-15 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

When we pray, we must have a humble heart.

Luke 18:9-14 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men — extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

The man who went down to his house justified was the one who prayed with the _____ heart.

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