

## Sermon Discussion

### 6 June 2021

Read Matthew 6:5-10

#### Dig Deeper

Jesus assumed that His disciples would pray, as He assumed they would give to the needy (v. 2) and fast (v. 16). But He warned against **pretentious worship**. The synagogues and streets were public places where people could practice their righteousness with an audience. The motive is what matters most. The person who prays more in public than in private reveals that they are less interested in God's approval than in human praise.

Jesus gives his disciples an example to follow when praying. The prayer begins with a calling to identify as God's child and then moves to **six petitions** that serve as proper priorities. The first three petitions (v. 9c-10) focus on *the preeminence of God* while the final three (v. 11-13) focus on *personal needs in a community context*.

1. How would you define prayer? Do you feel like you know how to pray when you pray?
2. The irony is that this prayer is given by Jesus in the context (v. 7) of telling his disciples not to pray with "empty phrases." Yet for many, this prayer has become one of empty phrases. Whether you recite these words or not, do you find yourself praying the same thing repeatedly? When you really think about it, do you give thought to what you mean or say? How can you avoid doing this in the future?
3. Consider this: if v. 8 states that God knows what you need before you ask Him, why should you ask Him at all?
4. Why is the understanding of "God as Father" and our adoption as His children so vital to our prayer life? How has this understanding been governing your prayer life as of late?
5. When you pray for God's will to be done in the world and in your life do you really mean it? What does it look like for God's will to be done in your life?

#### Application & Prayer

- Pausing helps us to quiet the noise in our lives. What "noise" (distractions, needy people, worries, to do's, etc.) keeps you from experiencing a dynamic prayer life? Will you choose a time and a place to pause? Tell someone what this will look like for you this coming week. Choose a time and a place to prepare your heart and mind for connection with God.
- Meditate on this: *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."* Matthew 6:9-13