

Praying Rightly

The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 6:5-8 (One28) - Vikram Pimplekar
27th March 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.

Observation (1/2)

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Observation (2/2)

- 6:1-4 – Giving Rightly
- 6:5-8 – Praying Rightly
- 6:9-15 – The Model Prayer
- 6:16 – 18 – Fasting Rightly

Prayer - Jewish Context

1. Prayer Was **Formalized**
 1. Shema (Deut. 6:4-9)
 2. Shemoneh Esreh (18 Prayers)
2. **Standardized** Prayers
3. **Set Times** for Prayers
4. **Places** for Prayer

(William Barclay Commentary on Matthew)

Wrong Motive 1 (vv.5-6)

- Motive: **To Impress Man**
- Example: The prayer of the Hypocrite
- Man rewards hypocritical prayer (5)
- God rewards sincere prayer (6)

Wrong Motive 2 (vv.7-8)

- Motive: To Impress God
- Example: The prayer of the Gentile
- Those who don't know God pray with desperation (7)
- Those who know God pray with confidence (8)

Application

1. All true prayer is offered to God
2. God is more ready to answer than we pray