

When God Doesn't Listen

Matthew 6:5-8

I. When We Pray to Gain Reputation with Others (5-6)

A. What Jesus Does Not Mean

1. "It's wrong to pray standing."

- Standing (Mk. 11:25)
- Sitting (2 Sam. 7:18)
- Kneeling (Acts 21:5)
- Prostrated on the ground (Mt. 26:39)

2. "It's wrong to pray in public."

- The OT (e.g., 2 Ch. 6:14-42)
- Jesus (Mt. 11:25; 14:19; 26:39, 42; Lk. 11:1)
- The apostles & early church (Acts 1:24; 3:1; 4:24-31)
- The commands for corporate worship (1 Tim. 2:1)

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 - A. What Jesus Does Not Mean
 - B. What Jesus Does Mean
 - 1. Beware the Wrong Motive for Prayer (5)

Ways to Pray *Hypocritically*...

1. Praying publicly without speaking to God from your heart
2. Praying longer to seem more spiritual
3. Praying more in public than private
4. Talking about how much you pray
5. Telling others you'll pray for them with no intention to do so
6. Using words or phrases to impress others
7. Orchestrating your schedule to be seen praying

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- I. When We Pray to Gain Reputation with Others (5-6)
 - A. What Jesus Does Not Mean
 - B. What Jesus Does Mean
 - 1. Beware the Wrong Motive for Prayer (5)
 - 2. Apply His Solution for Hypocrisy (6)
- II. When We Pray to Gain Merit with God (7-8)
 - A. Our Lord's Explanation (7)
 - B. Our Lord's Exhortation (8)