

When We Pray...

Matthew 6:5-8

Sermon Outline

A. Remember Not To..... (vs. 5):

1. When we pray – To pray in this passage is for someone to cause themselves to make continuous petition before God.
2. You are not to be – Christ commands us not to continuously behave like hypocrites.
3. Hypocrite – A hypocrite is an impersonator or an actor.
4. They love to stand – Hypocrites continuously have a common affection to be completely committed to establish themselves in places that gives them the attention they desire.
5. Prayer – The hypocrites continuously make themselves make loud petitions to God in the synagogues and street corners.
6. May be seen by men – The hypocrites want to make themselves visible to as many people as possible when the pray.
7. Truly, truly – Christ seeks to fervently, earnestly make a pronouncement to the disciples as to what they need to do when they pray compared to what they are accustomed to seeing.
8. Say – Christ is continuously, emphatically saying to His disciples what happens to the hypocrites who behave this way.
9. Reward – All the attention that the hypocrites experience provides them full payment for their prayers. They should not expect anything from God.

B. Focus on the Reward that Counts (vs. 6):

1. When you pray – Christ now teaches them how they must act when they are continuously making a petition to God.
2. Inner room/Entered an inner room – Christ wants our prayers to be purposeful in our approach to God to pray.
3. Inner room and close the door – Christ states that our focus must not be to seek to gain the attention of others but to be totally focused on making our petition to God without distraction.
4. Pray to your Father - Christ commands us to make our request once and for all to our Father. By Father, Christ is saying that God is the one who sought us, made a way for us to be able to come before Him because He desires to have a sincere relationship with us.
5. Secret; Hidden – Even though we go to our Father He remains hidden from us and may not make known Himself to us.

6. Your Father who sees – Our Father who cares for us demonstrated His love by being the one who initiated and established the relationship with us. He is continuously fully aware, because He earnestly contemplates everything that is taking place even before we come to Him in prayer (Daniel 9:20-23).
7. In secret - Even though the Father receives the petition directly and has a complete understanding of what is taking place He does not reveal what He is thinking.
8. Rewards – Our Father causes our petition to be a positive addition to our lives compared to the hypocrite who receives rewards from those who sees and hears them.
9. When you are praying – Christ continues to instruct the disciples how they can continuously make petitions to the Father.
10. Meaningless repetition – Christ commands the disciples not to pray in a mechanical manner making senseless repetitive sounds.
11. Meaningless repetition – Christ commands the disciples not to pray where they are repeating the same words for a long time.
12. For they suppose – Gentiles are of the opinion that it is better to pray long and by being repetitive they would force God to respond.
13. That they will be heard for their many words - The Gentiles believed that God would listen to them with the readiness to do what they requested because they were loud, repetitive and long with their prayers.

C. Remember God Cares (vs. 8):

1. For your Father – Christ commands us to make our request once and for all to our Father. By Father, Christ is saying that God is the one who sought us, made a way for us to be able to come before Him because He desires to have a sincere relationship with us.
2. Knows – Our Father has a complete divine knowledge and understanding of everything we need and it is always this way.
3. What you need – Our Father continuously has a complete understanding of what is necessary or lacking in our lives.
4. Before we ask – Because God is our Father and cares for us, knowing all that we lack, always willing to initiate faithful service on our behalf, we can come to Him with boldness or confidence that He will respond to our request (Luke 11:5-13).
5. What you need before we ask – Father – an established relationship – constant concern – consistent results when we pray.