

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

When You Pray

Matthew 6:5-21

Previously:

- **Not commands - we've seen that we cannot fulfill them in the flesh**
Instead: What our life will look like when we're full of the spirit
- Good done in secret will be revealed openly
- **The hard things: It's not condemnation, it's revelation.**

Jesus moves on from charity to prayer

conversations

I might need to go a little long today

[Pray]

6:5-8

When you pray

This direct call to us. Those drawing near to Jesus to hear what he has to say...

"Draw near to God and he will draw near to you"

It's not optional. When. You will.

If you're not praying, when I'm not praying, I know it's because there's something wrong with my relationship.

Not talking to friends or people because we're mad, hurt, etc.

God wants to talk to you. God wants to hear from you.

Talking to my kids at dinner - wanting them to tell me if they're mad or happy. I want to hear it all.

Psalms - David pours out his complaint

The key - a relationship

Sometimes we don't care what a person has to say until we know how much they care

Religious had been doing their good deeds in the open for earthly reward

But they also prayed for earthly reward

God was not hearing them

Luke 18:9-14 NKJV - Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. "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. 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' "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!' "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."

Hypocrites & heathen

Hypocrite - an actor, stage player, pretender

Heathen - foreigner, pagan, gentile, nature of the pagans/alien to the worship of the true god

Elijah & the Prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-40)

Vain repetitions

- stammer
- to repeat the same things over and over, to use many idle words, to **babble**, prate. Some suppose the word derived from Battus, a king of Cyrene, who is said to have stuttered; others from Battus, an author of tedious and wordy poems.

Tired - babble on and on

Babble - babel - tower of babel, confusing their language

Tongues as a prayer language

1 Cor 14

Listen to the messages if you want

There is a time for groanings and non-understanding with the Lord

Romans 8:26-27 NKJV - Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit [is], because He makes intercession for the saints according to [the will of] God.

There's a time and place for it...but it's not the majority of prayer life

There's a prescribed way to pray - but it's not a rote set of checkboxes

- It's not mechanical or methodical
- it's not "talking with the man upstairs"
- or "rub a dub dub thanks for the grub"

1 Thessalonians 5:17 NKJV - pray without ceasing,

Constant communication with God.

See it in the Bible - quick prayers

Again, like I said, if someone breaks into my house -

I'll say a quick prayer as I'm grabbing my gun

But I'm also praying regularly for God to protect us, even when there is no danger at the door.

Therefore do not be like them

We are not to pray the way the world prays!

Praying before I got saved

Why? Because God already knows what we need!

Relationship with the LIVING GOD

Isaiah describes people cutting a tree down, burning half for fire and carving and idol to worship with the rest.

Idols cannot hear, cannot speak, cannot do.

Dead faith turns to dead things. Living faith turns to a living God.

Saints, statues, religion, tradition (in place of relationship), prayers FOR the dead, etc.

The key: when we start turning towards legalism or formula, we've left the Spirit, we've left the relationship

God is a loving father

Good gifts - scorpion when asking for an egg?

:9

The key: in this manner

Pray like this. Think about this as an outline. As things to pray about. As an **attitude** of prayer.

Remember, we're talking to our Father. Through Jesus.

Not through someone else. Not through a system of works. We aren't pumping quarters into a

slot machine to get a chance at a prize.

*We're not paying a psychiatrist a lot of money per hour to listen to us.
Jesus paid his blood that we could have an open door to share everything with Him.
Including His relationship with His father.*

Our Father- remembering that the relationship is paternal, loving, intimate, strong, protective
But also communal. I'm not his only child. We are his children in Jesus.

Where? In heaven

God is not of this world. He made this world. He's above this world.

Colossians 1:16-17 NKJV - For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Remember - this is God himself telling us how to pray.

This isn't opinion.

*This is our Father telling us how to be open an honest with him. **And that he wants us to!***

Hallowed be your name

Holy! To be separate.

God's name is not like anyone else's

It's not be misused because it's the only name with real power

Respect in relationship

Yes, he's my father, my best friend. But at the end of the day, and the beginning of my prayer, I need to remember who it is I'm talking to

That I'm stepping into the throne room and talking to the One seated there

Prayer is about lifting up God's name, not mine

In attitude, in request, and in His response

But HE will lift you up!

Again, relationship!

:10

Your kingdom come

Your will be done

Prayer is about aligning us with God's will. Letting us get His perspective on the things bothering us. The things we need.

We'll see that we either don't need them or if we do He's got the right way to answer it Or that we're seeing it wrong and we're **trapped** by our way of thinking and need His freedom

Isaiah 55:8-9 NKJV - "For My thoughts [are] not your thoughts, Nor [are] your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Remember that what God wants done gets done, even if we don't understand how or why In the end, and the beginning, God is always God

Pharaoh - his stubbornness against God didn't stop God. It just hurt him and those around him and God's will was done whether he was on board or not.

We can either be blessed by going along with God's plan or miss out or at the very worst, lose out, as we resist Him

**Prayer is about seeking God for God's answers. God's way. God's provision.
Not seeking God to do it my way.**

We might start out that way - but as we pray, God will change our heart
If our hearts aren't changed by prayer - I wonder if we're really praying to God - or at least, listening

Prayer is a two way street - prayer, answer by the spirit, still small voice, in rhema scripture, etc.

:11

Daily bread what we need for today!

Do not worry about tomorrow 6:34

Manna in the wilderness

Lasted for one day only! If they took a lot or a little. Sabbath, take two day's worth.

*We go to Walmart for a week or two's groceries. Sometimes city folk stop at the bodega on the way to work or the way home from work
Breakfast on my commute*

We should be praying at least once a day

Morning

Evening

Noon

Whenever. But at least when you wake up or go to bed for a minute or two!

The more you pray, the more you'll want to pray

The less you pray, the hungrier you'll feel

Not that we can't pray about tomorrow - but tomorrow can wait

Quiet life, not in a rush, not getting ahead of God

:12

We need forgiveness of our sins

And we need to forgive others as well

Prayer needs to cover these things

We don't want to have a "root of bitterness"

Also, if we're forgiven by God, we're going to forgive others.

If we're not forgiving people, then it's clear we don't know the depths of what God has forgiven us for

And that comes through prayer.

Worship, too! Being broken!

Forgiving others doesn't mean we stick around to keep being abused, most often than not, but it means that we want the best for them, we want healthy relationships - as much as it's possible

Not forgiving others doesn't hurt them sometimes - most of the time it hurts us more

:13

God will not lead you into temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God [is] faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear [it].

God will allow you to be tested - but God's path is never to bring evil into your life, never the way of giving in to temptation, never sinning to somehow bring about righteousness.

**Prayer helps with that. Prayer helps us see what is temptation.
Where we've been giving in.**

When we have a need - and we pray about it - we begin to see what answers weren't answers from God. And what answers are from him.

The peaceable ones. The pure ones. The ones where we're not giving in, or compromising, or looking to the world to meet our needs.

And protection from the evil one!

He goes about like a "roaring lion seeking whom he may devour"

He wants to "sift us as wheat" (Peter)

But "The Lord Rebuke you" (Angels even)

Full armor of God

Closing of prayer - back to God on the throne

It's all His and He's in absolute control

Giving Him glory - no matter what the answer is

No matter what the day brings

No matter how the situation plays out

If we're praying, we'll see God's hand in it all

Even the "bad" losing a job, losing an opportunity, not meeting a need in a sinful way

Not "when God closes a door he opens another"

But that we don't even want the doors we thought were open

About tithing, but listen to the last part...

Malachi 3:10 NKJV - Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you [such] blessing That [there will] not [be room] enough [to receive it].

God's answer is always to bless us - even in the answer that's a no.

**** If willing to go a little long because it fits ****

:16-18

Again, Jesus using religious hypocrites as the example! The bad example!

See, God will use anyone! And even the fake religious people, just not in the way they think.

Fasting

Not eating! Not drinking. Can be not doing certain things - TV! Your phone. Friends.
Usually for a time or season.

Denying your fleshly needs to seek your spiritual needs - or more accurately, seek God instead of food.

Kind of like a nazirite vow - samson

Not drinking alcohol - i'm not fasting from it, per se, but it's God's call on my life to not have it

1 Corinthians 7:5 NKJV - Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.'

The fast is over when you've gotten through it - Jesus' temptation

Can be simple - skip a meal to read the Bible or to pray

Can be short - a meal. Can be long, many meals.

But it's not a work to earn an answer from God. Or get your way.

It's a way to deny yourself and follow Him

A way to turn down the noise of life and listen to your Father

Again, IN SECRET

Fasting diets, vegans (OK if you are) but the joke about it's been 5 minutes since I've told someone

This is not the way to do a spiritual fast. Want to talk about your diet for health, sure. But not your fast for spiritual reasons.

Many folks in Christianity talk about fasting with no humility! No reason for anyone to know about it by God - unless it's a corporate act for a corporate answer (Ninevah)

Meema says wash your face!

There is a relationship between prayer and fasting.

Matthew 17:21 NKJV - "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

If you're having trouble discerning God's answer. Having trouble hearing from him.

Try fasting and continuing to pray.

Fasting is not about spiritual clout with others. It's about seeking God.

Again, open reward.

**** One more section...because it's all so related with prayer...getting us in a heavenly-minded attitude. ***

:19-21

Treasures in heaven vs. treasures on earth

Doing things in secret -> heaven

Doing things to be seen -> earth

There's reward on earth - but which lasts longer?

Which is better?

One doesn't rot. One can't be stolen.

Others in heaven - the ultimate reward

Those we loved. Those who hated us.

Ultimately so that our heart is in heaven.

The more we pray.

The more we fast.

The more we store up in heaven.

The more people we love going there.

The more we'll want to go there.

Pop pop...a man he was friends with in NY just died

I know they're partying now together.

God wants us to always have heaven in mind

Not that we're no earthly good - but that we're the most earthly good

And if our heart is there - we're going to see heaven here now

Kids laughing at dinner table

You can be confident of heaven because the living God of heaven wants you to be there with him. In mind. In heart. In Spirit. And eventually, in time.