

## Proper Private Prayer

Matthew 6:5-8

### Introduction:

#### ●Barna research

1. Typical Christian prays \_\_\_\_\_ per day.
2. Typical pastor prays \_\_\_\_\_ per day.
3. In Jesus's day the typical Jewish leader prayed \_\_\_\_\_ per day.

#### ●Jesus instructs His disciples and so us as well

1. How not to pray before teaching them proper prayer
2. This applies to p\_\_\_\_\_ prayer although **some** of this can be applied to public prayer.

### Don't use prayer to impress people (5)

#### ●Jesus commands: When praying, do not be like the hypocrites

1. A hypocrite – referred to an a \_\_\_\_\_ and so means to put on an act.
2. The Pharisees prayed their private prayers p\_\_\_\_\_ (in synagogues and on street corners).

#### ●Jesus states that those who pray like this have their f\_\_\_\_\_ reward.

1. The reward that these look for is the a \_\_\_\_\_ of people. That is their full reward.
2. There will be no o \_\_\_\_\_ rewards.

#### ●Application

1. Praying privately at a restaurant before a meal
  - a. If you do this to s \_\_\_\_\_ you are a Christian, that is hypocrisy – putting on an act. You can privately without being noticed.
  - b. If you do this because your spouse or other believers are eating with you and you are praying on everyone's behalf – that is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Praying privately as a witness to unbelievers
  - a. You must take the spotlight off y \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. You must put the spotlight on the unbeliever and their n \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Being afraid to pray (when asked) because you don't pray well enough – this makes it about what people t \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Don't use prayer to impress God (7)**

- Jesus commands: when praying, don't be like the Gentiles
  1. Gentiles were people of other r\_\_\_\_\_ (not Jewish)
  2. Gentiles typically worshipped m\_\_\_\_\_ gods.
  3. They believed that r\_\_\_\_\_ and a large volume of words won the favor of the gods.
- Application
  1. Saying a certain n\_\_\_\_\_ of "Our Fathers" and "Hail Marys" is thought to get an action from God
  2. Reciting a certain prayer before a meal, or before bedtime as satisfying a religious r\_\_\_\_\_ is thought to win God's favor.
  3. Satisfying a certain period of time in prayer (e.g., 30 minutes) is often thought to be p\_\_\_\_\_ to God.

## **Use prayer for God to impress you (6,8)**

- Jesus commands: when you pray go into your inner room and close the door.
  1. Jesus is quoting Isaiah 26:20
    - a. There God commanded the people of Israel to p\_\_\_\_\_ wait on God to execute judgment on their enemies.
    - b. They were not to take things into their own hands but go inside their h\_\_\_\_\_ and pray for God's deliverance while enduring adversity from their enemies.
  2. Jesus is illustrating a h\_\_\_\_\_ -to-h\_\_\_\_\_ talk with God – the heart is the inner room and God's response is the r\_\_\_\_\_
- Application:
  1. God is the only one who k\_\_\_\_\_ our hearts (Rev 2:23; Matt 6:8).
  2. When we pray from our hearts, we will receive the reward of God impressing us with:
    - a. His presence    b. His comfort    c. His teaching
    - d. His mercy      e. His love            f. His mercy
  3. God knows what we need far better than we do)

Next week – Using the Lord's Prayer as Jesus intended