



Listener Reviews



# BEST SERMON EVER

*“I’ve never heard anything like  
this before.”*



**Matthew**  
a verified listener

# NOTES

## *for today's message*

### **PRAYER OUGHT TO BE AT THE CORE OF OUR LIVES.**

- Prayer should mark my life
- Prayer should be a constant in my life
- Awe and intimacy with God should be my goal

"Prayer is beyond any question the highest activity of the human soul. Man is at his greatest and highest when upon his knees he comes face to face with God." - **MARTYN LLOYD-JONES**

### **WHAT THE SCRIPTURES TELL US ABOUT PRAYER:**

- Jesus' life was centered around prayer, which he modeled for the early church.
- Paul said to pray without ceasing.
- Prayer in Scripture is not for the super Christians, but for all Christians.
- Prayer is an encounter with God.

*"Prayer is the only entryway into genuine self-knowledge. It is also the main way we experience deep change—the reordering of our loves. Prayer is how God gives us so many of the unimaginable things he has for us. Indeed, prayer makes it safe for God to give us many of the things we most desire. It is the way we know God, the way we finally treat God as God. Prayer is simply the key to everything we need to do and be in life."* - **TIM KELLER**

- Prayer is when you submit to God and simply say "You are God, I am not."

**MATTHEW 6:5-13** "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7 "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."



### 3 WAYS WE SHOULDN'T PRAY:

#### 1. By Not Praying

*Citizens of the Kingdom pray often; they make time for prayer.*

##### Things that keep us from praying:

- a. We are busy, distracted people
- b. We have bad priorities
  - "Work, work from early until late. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer" - **MARTIN LUTHER**
- c. We feel spiritually empty
  - When we feel far from God we need to spend time with God
- d. We sometimes feel guilty
  - Guilt causes us to hide from God, but that's the best time to pray
- e. We fight unbelief
  - The only way to rebuild faith is to see God answer more prayers
- f. We struggle with anger
  - Remaining angry with God leads to not trusting God because we don't know Him. The only way to know Him again is prayer.

**MATTHEW 6:5-6** "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

#### 2. By Pretending To Be Better Than We Are

*Prayer is about admitting our desperate need for God.*

#### 3. By Thinking God Has To Be Impressed With Our Prayers

**MATTHEW 6:7-8** "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

- We need to get out of the routine of saying the same things over and over. Jesus gives us access to the Father. Run to Him.

**MATTHEW 6:6** "But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

- We come to God to get God.

# STUDY GUIDE

*questions for later*

## DISCUSSION

1. What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?
2. Read **Matthew 6:5-13**. Give examples of how the following reasons for not praying have interfered with your prayer life and how you overcame them or plan to overcome them:

- Busyness
- Having bad priorities
- Feeling spiritually empty
- Feeling guilty
- Struggling with unbelief
- Anger

## ACTION STEPS

3. Reality check:

Tim Keller says, "Prayer is the only entryway into genuine self-knowledge. It is also the main way we experience deep change—the reordering of our loves. Prayer is how God gives us so many of the unimaginable things he has for us. Indeed, prayer makes it safe for God to give us many of the things we most desire. It is the way we know God, the way we finally treat God as God. Prayer is simply the key to everything we need to do and be in life."

What does your prayer life look like if you truly believe this statement?

1. **HEART**- Discover and deepen your relationship with Jesus through the Daily Devotional provided on our app and website ([northridgenow.org/bestsermonever](http://northridgenow.org/bestsermonever)).

Invite three people of your same gender to form a **DNA Group**, committing to meet together weekly to discover and deepen your relationship with Jesus. Contact [brad@northridgenow.org](mailto:brad@northridgenow.org) for more information on forming a DNA Group.

2. **HARD TO REACH**- Identify someone this week who is far from Jesus. Find ways to hear their story and begin building a relationship with them.

3. **HOME**- Spend time with your family discussing ways to grow in devotion to Jesus so that His value in our life is easily and naturally seen by others. Contact [emily@northridgenow.org](mailto:emily@northridgenow.org) for more resources.

4. **HURTING**- Identify someone who is hungry, sick, anxious, lonely, or has some other need. Find ways to meet that need.