

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Praying with Pure Motives

With Gerrit Nieuwoudt
July 21, 2024



Matthew 6:5-6 (NIV) “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly, I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

- **An important observation: We are expected to pray!**

- **A prohibition:** “Do not be like the hypocrites...”

- **God cares about our motives**

“A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart.” - Proverbs 21:2

How then should we pray?

- **Keep it private.**

- **Keep it honest.**

- **Keep it simple.**

“When you pray, don’t keep on babbling like the pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words...” Matthew 6:7

Big Idea: Seek God sincerely through prayer, & your reward will be great.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Praying with Pure Motives
#15 of 26 - July 21, 2024

- 1) What has been your experience with prayer?

- 2) Read Matthew 6:5-7. What is the **Context** for these passages? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole?

- 3) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions does it raise for you?

- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this for us?

- 5) What does this tell us about praying with pure motives? Why does this matter and why is God so concerned about our motives?

- 6) How does God “reward us” for praying in a way that is authentic and God honouring? Share about an experience you have had with answered prayer?

- 7) **Application:** What resonates with you from this message? In what ways can you apply the teachings of Jesus today?

- 8) What would it look like for you to pray in a way where you keep it private, keep it honest, and keep it simple?

- 9) Take some time as a group to prayer together and for one another.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Praying with Pure Motives
#15 of 26 - July 21, 2024

- 1) What has been your experience with prayer?

- 2) Read Matthew 6:5-7. What is the **Context** for these passages? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole?

- 3) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions does it raise for you?

- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this for us?

- 5) What does this tell us about praying with pure motives? Why does this matter and why is God so concerned about our motives?

- 6) How does God “reward us” for praying in a way that is authentic and God honouring? Share about an experience you have had with answered prayer?

- 7) **Application:** What resonates with you from this message? In what ways can you apply the teachings of Jesus today?

- 8) What would it look like for you to pray in a way where you keep it private, keep it honest, and keep it simple?

- 9) Take some time as a group to prayer together and for one another.