

Sermon on the Mount

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The Secret of Prayer

Matthew – Outcast Jew. Disciple of Jesus.

Sermon on the Mount:

- Longest recorded sermon of Jesus.
- The difference between his disciples and other religious people.
- Dealing with hypocrisy.

Matthew 6:1 (ESV) Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 6:5 (ESV) 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.

- It's ok to be honest about your brokenness.

Matthew 6:6 (ESV) 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.

- “WHEN YOU” We must have a prayer life.
- Personal prayer life.

- Matthew 5:13-16 Salt and light. Hide a light under a basket. Let it shine. He's not saying don't have public prayer.
- When you pray, go be with your father.
- Secret (*kruptós*) – to hidden, concealed. Keep hidden to protect or for self-serving reasons.
- Opposite to light. Majority of your prayer life is alone with God.

Matthew 6:7-9 (ESV) 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:

- “Empty phrases and many words.” They saying a lot of nothing.
- Jews prayed 3 times a day.
- Pagans repeated the name of their gods over and over without thinking.
- Bring prayers from the heart over and over as you need.

What is prayer? Prayer communication, communion and a play of intimate connection with God.

Matthew 6:9-13 (ESV) 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.

- Model prayer. “Like this”.
- Your prayer life needs to be filled with the elements of this prayer.

6 KEY ELEMENTS

1. Our Father. Think about who you’re talking to first. Abba. Holy is your name. Let your name be treated with reverence. Let it be kept holy.
2. Kingdom come. The reign of Christ in the world and in hearts and lives of believers.
3. Will be done. Pray for the things that God has said are important to spread. His values, righteousness, purpose.
4. Daily bread. The first time you’re included but praying for others. Never live with self-sufficiency.
5. Forgive us. Constantly confess sin. Constantly release people before the Lord.
6. Lead us not into temptation. Strength for trials and hardships. Wisdom in navigating life to not fall into pitfalls and bad influences.

Matthew 6:14-15 (ESV) 14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.