

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 9/10/2023

Matthew 6:5-15 Fall Forward: Prayer

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Highlights

- In life you will fall. When you fall, FALL FORWARD.
 - Trying to live out your life with Jesus is hard, you will stumble, even fail sometimes. But when you do, keep moving toward Jesus.
- How do you fall forward? Spiritual Disciplines.
 - Practices put in place to help us journey toward Jesus, whether we are “feeling it” or not.
- **v. 5** Hypocrite – Jesus is using this word differently than we do today. It shouldn’t point to someone else, but point us to ourselves to examine our hearts.
 - Literally means play actor: putting on an image that isn’t really the person
 - You say..... but I say..... from Matthew 5. God sees who we really are, even if we look okay on the outside. **Who does God really see, when He sees you?**
 - **The hypocritical part of me just wants people to believe I am _____.** (Fill in the blank)
- **v. 6** “...but when you pray, go into your **(inner) room**....” Inner room is the hidden place (in your heart) where only Jesus sees; only Jesus has access.
 - Maybe Jesus mentioned the inner room to reflect or make us think of the Holy of Holies in the Temple.
 - The very place God resides
 - Through Jesus, the very presence of God residing inside us
 - The Holy of Holies was hidden by a veil, that tore when Jesus died on the cross, giving us access to God; it is no longer veiled.
 - I can be in the same space with God; I become that space.
 - **How does thinking of yourself as the Holy of Holies; the inner room where you are to go pray, change the way you pray? How does it change the way you think about prayer?**
 - **Do you have a literal prayer closet?**
- **V. 7-8** Why does God hear me when I pray?
 - Not because I say the right words or pray long enough, etc.
 - It’s because God is your Father. You belong to Him, He cares of you.
 - **Have you ever thought about God actually hearing your prayer? Have you ever wondered how He does it?**
 - **What keeps you from praying, if anything?**
- **V. 9** Our Father... we are not meant to do this alone. God is the Father of all believers. Because of the relationship we have with Him, we don’t have to pray in isolation.
 - Your name = character
 - Hallowed or honored = acknowledging who God has been in our lives and in history
 - Your Kingdom = I could build my own little kingdom that I control, but it is God’s.
 - We have to lay down our kingdom for his
 - When we try to build our own kingdom, we spin our wheels, we never have enough.
 - Submitting to God’s kingdom = life
 - Will – when we fix our eyes on His Character, His will will be done. Heaven comes to earth.

- **What do you see in the first part of the Lord's prayer?**
- **V. 11** Jesus sustains us, He abundantly has enough for us. Jesus has overcome temptation.
- **V. 14-15 (See the parable of the Unmerciful Servant in Matthew 18:21-35)**
 - Jesus sees you're forgiving others, even if it's for something small
 - Jesus gives you the capacity to forgive others when Jesus's forgiveness is real to you.
 - I will forgive because I have been forgiven – it's a supernatural thing!
 - **Is His grace and forgiveness real to you? Why or why not?**
 - **Who do you need to forgive?**
 - **Does Jesus's forgiveness affect the way you pray? How?**

Summary points:

- God sees you as no one else does.
- God is anywhere you are. The veil is torn.
- God hears you because He is your Father.
- You get to experience all of this because of His forgiveness.

What do we do with this?

- **Invite Jesus to see and speak to the real you.**
- **Consider who you should forgive.**
- **Remember the Lord's prayer when you get stuck.**