

**SERMON SERIES:** 52

**SPEAKER:** Tim Snyder

**DATE:** July 16, 2023

## Sermon Title:

“What Did Jesus Say About Prayer and Fasting?”

## Introduction

This week in our 52 series, we are going to ask the question, “What Did Jesus Say About Prayer and Fasting?” With prayer being such an important part of our life as Christians, it can be easy to wonder if we are “doing it right.” In Matthew 6:1-18, Jesus helps us by giving a model prayer, one to show us the elements of prayer that God wants to see from us.

- What is your current relationship with prayer? Have you ever asked yourself, “Am I doing this right?”

## Seek the Word

- Read Matthew 6:5-8. Rather than praying for show, Jesus calls us to find a private place and pray to God “who is unseen” (v.6). What elements of the Lord's Prayer (v. 9-13) are better prayed in private, and why?
- In Matthew 6:10 Jesus says we should pray that God's will, not ours, would be done. Now read Luke 22:39-53. Jesus followed his own model prayer by praying to God, “Not my will but yours be done,” and while he was still talking, He was arrested and sentenced to death. How does this deepen the true reality and meaning of praying “Not my will but God's be done.”?

## Talk About It

- What elements of the Lord's prayer are you already incorporating into your prayer life?
- Is praying relationally rather than as an exchange more difficult? Why or why not?
- How does praying “not my will but yours” bring you comfort? How does it scare you?
- Out of the four A.C.T.S. (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) of prayer, which do you struggle the most with, and which comes the easiest for you?
- Is there anything you need to bring to God in prayer that you have held back?

## Wrap Up

*Reminder: God desires that we spend time with Him daily.*

*Challenge: Find 2 minutes each day to pray to God who loves you and desires a relationship with you*