

Blessed – The Unexpected Path to the Beautiful Life
Praying
Matthew 6:5-18



²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

¹⁴ Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

⁵ 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.

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**¹⁷ Evening, morning and noon
I cry out in distress,
and he hears my voice.
Psalm 55**

**¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.
Daniel 6**

**¹One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon.
Acts 3**

Prayer is not to be done to impress people with our spirituality

***“As our ego swells, our soul shrivels.”
Dallas Willard***

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6 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.

***Jesus is not prescribing our ‘method’ for prayer
but our ‘motivation’ for prayer***

7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

βατταλογεω || Babble

²⁵ Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.” ²⁶ So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

²⁷ At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.” ²⁸ So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. ²⁹ Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

I Kings 18

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⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:

The Lord’s Prayer reflects a posture of intimacy and reverence

The Lord’s Prayer anchors us in dependence upon God, not self-sufficiency

The surprise of the Christian life is the more we yield to God in prayer, the more God empowers us to live like Jesus.

Rich Villodas
The Narrow Path: How the Subversive Way of Jesus Satisfies our Souls

The Lord’s Prayer is not a strategy to get God to grant whatever we desire, but a practice that forms us into the ways of Jesus

Prayer is about simplicity of heart and words

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**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.**

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