Pray First PART 3 HANDOUT

11.1.26

1. PRAYER IS NOT A PERFORMANCE

Matthew 6:5–6 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. 6But 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.

He says, in essence: **Don't pray like the hypocrites.**

KEY THOUGHT #1 Prayer isn't about being impressive before people. It's about being honest before God.

- If nobody ever knew how much I prayed, would I still pray?
- Prayer is not about being seen by people. <u>It's about being known by God.</u>

2. PRAYER IS A RELATIONSHIP, NOT A FORMULA

Matthew 6:7–8 7And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

- More words don't mean more power. That's not how prayer works.

KEY THOUGHT #2 Prayer is relationship with your Father.

- Prayer is about developing dependence.

3. JESUS TEACHES US TO START WITH GOD

Matthew 6:9–10 9 “This, then, is how you should pray:

“ ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

- Jesus is teaching us: **Start with God, not yourself.**

KEY THOUGHT #3 Prayer changes what I want before it changes what God does.

- Prayer takes my heart and begins aligning it with God's heart.

Your kingdom come.

- *That's a dangerous prayer.* Because if you genuinely pray it, you are surrendering control.
- Prayer teaches us to trust that God sees what I cannot see.

4. PRAYER BRINGS OUR DAILY NEEDS TO OUR FATHER

Matthew 6:11 11 Give us today our daily bread.

- We bring our needs to God <u>after</u> we've surrendered our lives to God.

5. PRAYER DEALS WITH OUR PAST

Matthew 6:12 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

- Jesus teaches us: **We need daily forgiveness.**
- And here's the good news: We don't confess to a Father who is looking for a reason to reject us.

<u>We confess to a Father who has already made provision for our sin through Christ.</u>

- *A person who has genuinely experienced God's grace should increasingly become a person who extends grace.*

KEY THOUGHT #4 People who have been forgiven become forgiving people.

- <u>I release my right</u> to personally repay the person who hurt me and entrust justice to God.

6. PRAYER DEALS WITH OUR FUTURE

Matthew 6:13 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

- Jesus is teaching us to recognize: **I am spiritually vulnerable.**

Prayer brings our entire lives before God. Yesterday's failures / Today's needs / Tomorrow's fears.

LIFE POINT: Prayer isn't about getting God to fit into my plans; it's about bringing my life under God's plans.

Let's become a church that doesn't just talk about prayer. **Let's become a church that prays.**