

## Privilege of Prayer

Matthew 6.5-15

### Overview

#### **A. Jesus warns against practicing righteousness in order to be seen (Vs. 6-7)**

1. We see this in this portion of the sermon in other places around (vs. 1, 5, 16)
2. These people are hypocrites (vs. 5 & 16)
  - a. Word means “acting”
3. These people have received their reward:
  - a. They receive no reward from God
4. Religion was being practiced for personal gain

#### **B. You cannot access God through empty phrases (v 7)**

1. God cannot be accessed by stringing together certain phrases

#### **C. Pray in Secret because you simply want to meet with God for God (not for man or earn God) (vs. 6):**

1. God in secret references God not being sin (vs. people who can be seen and give reward)
2. Going to pray to God in secret connotes you want to meet with God for no other reason than that you want to meet with Him for Him
3. God offers a reward for such prayers

#### **D. God knows what you need before you ask (v 8):**

1. There must be another reason to go to God not just to make Him aware of what you need:
  - a. That other reason is to go to God not just for what He can give you but because you can go to Him for Him:
2. Vs. 7 Attempts to access God on our own where vs. 8 Says God already knows what you need:
  - a. In other words there is another way to go to God and another reason to go to God:
    - i. These reasons are seen in Hebrews 10.19-22
    - i. God gives us access to God not for what He can give us but through His Son we can go to Him clean...we gain God

#### **E. Model Prayer is built off of this desire to know God and see His will brought about on earth as it is in Heaven:**

1. Father...hallow your Name:
  - a. This is not a recognition of His greatness, but a petition that God would do it
    - i. This is the chief end of our Faith to see God glorified on earth
  - b. HIS Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven:
    - i. Its His kingdom and it ought to be our desire to see it come about here
2. The requests are even grounded in the centrality of God hallowing His Name:
  - a. Giving us bread so we can live and presumably hallow His name
  - b. Forgive us for our debts (sins) that is how we have not hallowed His Name
  - c. Forgiving others as we have been forgiving hallowing God Name...our chief joy
  - d. Delivering from temptation and from evil delivers us from the failure to hallow His name on earth as it is in heaven
3. A lack of Forgiveness illustrates you don't have God's forgiveness since you are not able to forgive in the same way Christ has forgiven you:

*The Privilege of Prayer is being granted access to the throne room of God where we can enjoy Him for Him not for the praise of others or any other reward. The model prayer reflects a prayer life that illustrates this great Truth.*

### Questions

**Discussion Starter:** *Share any stories or testimonies where you have heard others either pray or display religiosity in a manner that would bring attention to themselves for the purposes of receiving praise from man. How are you tempted towards the same?*

1. Read Matthew 6:5-15. Why would Jesus condemn public displays of religiosity for the purposes of receiving praise from man? In what ways does this practice diminish God and His glory?
2. According to verses vv. 5-8 what are the wrong motives of the heart to pray? How might these motives manifest themselves in your life?
3. What is it about 'secret' prayer (or giving) that would have God to reward you?
4. In what way does your God-focused private prayer life illustrate your state of spiritual maturity?
5. Re-read verse 8. If God already knows what we need, then we do we even pray in the first place?
6. How can it be said that the Gospel brings about the privilege of prayer?
7. How does pursuing God for God in prayer (not for personal gain) instruct our prayer lives?
8. Looking at the model prayer in verses 9-13, how can you see Jesus teaching us that the goal of the Gospel is not our personal glory but God's glory?
9. Why is forgiveness an indicator of your possession of salvation? Explain.
10. Share some struggles you have in private prayer and try and encourage one another in ways you can pursue God for God in prayer as your Father.

**Accountability Question:** *Confess any struggles you have to heap up 'empty phrases' in prayer or how you have treated God as a resource to get what you want.*

*Share some examples of how to pursue God for God in our circumstances by looking at the Psalms.*