

PRAYER LESSONS FROM JESUS

"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 men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 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. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "This, then, is how you should pray: "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. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Matthew 6:5-18 (NIV)

❖ Jesus' DIRECTIVES for Prayer:

1. When you Pray... keep it QUIET.

"Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God."

Matthew 6:6a (MSG)

2. When you Pray... keep it HONEST.

"Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace."

Matthew 6:6b (MSG)

3. When you Pray... keep it SIMPLE.

"The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply."

Matthew 6:7-9 (MSG)

❖ What Prayer DEMONSTRATES About Us:

"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 men..." (vs 5a)

1. Prayer demonstrates our RELATIONSHIP with God.

"Our Father in heaven..." (vs 9a)

2. Prayer demonstrates our WORSHIP of God.
"... hallowed be your name..." (vs 9b)
3. Prayer demonstrates our HOPE in God.
"your kingdom come..." (vs 10a)
4. Prayer demonstrates our SUBMISSION to God.
"your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (vs 10b)
5. Prayer demonstrates our DEPENDENCE on God.
"Give us today our daily bread..." (vs 11)
6. Prayer demonstrates our ACCEPTANCE of God's grace.
"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." (vs 12)
7. Prayer demonstrates our NEED for God's protection.
"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." (vs 13)

❖ The DANGEROUS TRENDS of Prayer:

1. Praying without a FORGIVING SPIRIT.
"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." (vs 14)
2. Praying to be HEARD by others.
"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 men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full." (vs 5)
3. Praying to be SEEN by others.
"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full." (vs 16)