

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Learning To Be Like Jesus From The Sermon On The Mount

LIVING MY LIFE BEFORE GOD

- **Matt.6:1 - “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.”**
- **Matt.6 is a picture of the Christian living his life in this world, in the presence of God in active submission to God. There are two parts:**
 - **1. How do I live my religious life? – 6:1-18**
 - **2. What am I trusting in for this life? 6:19-34**

A RIGHTEOUS LIFE BEFORE GOD

- **A life lived before God:**
 - 1. Must be lived in faith in God alone**
 - 2. Walked in Faith will be rewarded by God**
- **Heb. 11:6 - Without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek him.**
- **As I live my life before the audience of ONE, counter-culture to today's society of trusting self and money, God will generously reward us for and with eternity**

SELF PROMOTION RELIGION

- **When** you give to the needy. 6:1
- If you give in such a way to get the praise of people, you have your reward. You get zero credit with God.
- Give in such a way that it is before God and not in a way that you will get praise from people
- **When** you Fast, 6:16, do it before God alone. Take steps to conceal it from others
- Your reward for Religion done to impress others, is the praise of others.

RIGHTEOUS PRAYING

- **6:5 - When** you pray ...
- **When we pray for the praise of people, that is our answer and that is our reward.**
- **What is Prayer?**
- **The message of the gospels seems to be that prayer is basically, asking, requesting things of God.**
- **It is ok to pray for health and your business**
- **While that is true, neither is God your cosmic butler**

RIGHTEOUS PRAYING

- **We are to pray about what concerns us. Phil.4:6**
- **As we grow in our relationship with God, what concerns us will also change**
- **What prayer as asking presupposes is simply a personal—that is, an experientially interactive—relationship between us and God, just as with a request of child to parent or friend to friend. *Willard***
- **Book of Psalms is seen as a great prayer book**

RIGHTEOUS PRAYING

- **The most adequate description of prayer is simply, “Talking to God about what we are doing together.”**
- **Requests will naturally be made in the course of this conversational walk. Prayer is a matter of explicitly sharing with God my concerns about what he too is concerned about in my life.**
- **He is concerned about my concerns and, in particular, that my concerns should coincide with His. This is our walk together. Out of it I pray.**

RIGHTEOUS PRAYING

- **Praise will be a natural part of walk with God. It is a good exercise, but in itself is not really prayer**
- **Thanksgiving goes hand in hand with praise and should be a part of our prayer walk, but the heart of prayer is the request.**
- **Do we believe God is going to do what he planned with or without our prayers? How do we respond to children?**
- **Do our prayers change the mind of God?**
 - **Ex.32:11-14 – Moses reasoned with God**
 - **2Kings 20:1-6 – King Hezekiah**

RIGHTEOUS PRAYING

- **God's over arching purposes are fixed, but His intentions regarding particular individuals are not. God's great character and purposes are such that they allow him to change**
- **There is great power in Prayer**
- **George Muller was a man of prayer, requesting of God**
- **Hudson Taylor established the China Inland Mission on the principle that financial needs would only be discussed with God.**
- **God supplies for churches through prayer**

RIGHTEOUS PRAYING

- **Prayer is the outflow of our relationship of love with the Father**
- **Moses was close to God. – Num.12:6-8**
- **John 14:23, Eph.3:16-19 say the same is available to us.**
- **As we grow in prayer, our concerns and our conversations with God will more and more reflect His concerns**
- **Ps.37:4 - Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.**