

Praying to The Father of Us

Learning to Pray From the Talk on the Hill

RIGHTEOUS Praying

- 6:5 - **When** you pray ...
- When we pray for the praise of people, that is our answer and that is our reward. 6:5
- 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, God is not your cosmic butler

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 the re-shaping of my mind. This is our walk together. Out of it, I pray.**

How Do We Pray?

- ❑ **6:5-7 – We are not to be like the hypocrites.**
- ❑ **It is not to be for the praise of people. 5**
- ❑ **It is best done in private, so that you are not worried about impressing people with the right words or style**
- ❑ **It is best in secret so that when God answers you know it was not manipulated by people**
- ❑ **God is not impressed by lots of talk – 6:7**
- ❑ **Hab.2:20 – Let all the earth be silent**
- ❑ **Eccl.5:1-3 - Let your words be few**

Who Are We Praying To?

- ❑ **To whom is our prayer to be directed? 6:9**
- ❑ **Matt.6:9 – “Our Father” – it speaks of relationship, love, knowledge, authority, ability, availability**
- ❑ **A direct translation of the first line is: “Father of us, the one in the heavens.”**
- ❑ **The term heavens means, the outer limits beyond the scientists vision, to air we walk and live in.**
- ❑ **The unfortunate translation of, “Our Father in Heaven” leaves the impression God is “Way out there!”**

Who Are We Praying To?

- ❑ **Not only is He our Father and He is close, but, He is to be revered as Holy. “Hallowed be your Name!”**
- ❑ **Hab.2:20 – Let all the earth be silent**
- ❑ **Eccl.5:1-3 - Let your words be few**
- ❑ **A better translation of the language here is “let your name be sanctified.” Let it be uniquely respected.**
- ❑ **Jewish respect for the name of G*d means they wont say it or spell it. The pronunciation of the name Yahweh has been lost**

Who Are We Praying To?

- ❑ **The Jewish habit of building legal fences around things in order to keep them “hallowed”, also has a tendency to make God remote and unapproachable!**
- ❑ **Mark 14:36 -And He was saying, “Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.”**
- ❑ **Romans 8:15 - For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”**
- ❑ **Galatians 4:6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”**

Praying To The Father Of Us

- ❑ **Who are you praying to?**
- ❑ **Is He a God so awesome and powerful you approach in fear?**
- ❑ **Is He your best buddy that things are really casual?**
- ❑ **He is your Powerful, Awesome, Holy, Eternal, Loving, Compassionate, Caring, Tender, Interested FATHER!**
- ❑ **Live and Pray the Balance.**