

## Prayer

**Read:** Matthew 6:5-15

### Summary:

Having just talked about giving to the needy Jesus is now applying the ... '*not to do your acts of righteousness before men, instead do them for your Father in heaven*' principle to prayer.

*When you pray...* Jesus teaches that prayer is for all Christians, it is not meant to be an Olympic sport that many watch the professionals at nor is prayer an optional extra for the committed few. In fact prayer is the ultimate test of a person's spiritual condition.

Jesus is NOT trying to teach that prayer is about formulae, posture, place, people or words.

The Christian life is about the glory of God and not the gaze of men.

Jesus is not teaching about the secrecy of prayer but the sincerity of prayer.

When we pray we approach God!

Prayer is not to remind or inform God about things. Prayer is not about getting things from God. Prayer is about developing a relationship with God.

When we come to pray we need to forget about others – and our self.

Instead we need to focus on God, who He is and what He can do! We must come to pray confident and full of faith.

Jesus gave us a 'model prayer' not *what* to pray but *how* to pray.

Basically prayer can be split in 2: the focus is God... His name, His Kingdom & His will. Then we may bring our needs... our daily provisions, forgiveness from sins and protection for the future.

Jesus has just told His disciples to give out of a genuine love for people; now He is teaching them to pray out of a genuine love for God.

### Application:

Please select from the following questions, encouraging all to take part and to be honest.

1. Was there anything shared on Sunday that needs clarifying for you?
2. What was the main thing God said to you on Sunday and what are you going to do as a result?
3. What do you find hardest about prayer?
4. How would you like to see your prayer life change over the next 3 months?
5. How do you stop your relationship with Jesus from getting dry and routine?
6. What do you find most inspiring from the Bible about the prayer life of Jesus?