

Three sermons on **Prayer** delivered by **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor, on **October 14, 2018**

Bible texts explored: Matthew 6:5-15

[1] ⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

[2] ⁹Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
¹⁰Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

[3] ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread,
¹²and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. What are the three main emphases of these verses? (What prayer should not be; what prayer should be like in terms of praying to God; what prayer should be like in terms of praying for ourselves)

What Prayer Should Not Be Like (v5-8):

2. What does Jesus warn us against in verse 5?
3. Why does he warn us against this?
4. What is the antidote to hypocritical prayer in verse 6?
5. What does Jesus warn us against in verse 7?
6. Why does Jesus say we should not pray like the pagans in verse 8?
7. Think: in what ways do you think our prayers can tend towards the patterns of prayer that Jesus warns against either in verse 5 or verse 8? How could you use the secret prayer described in verse 6, or reflection on God’s sovereignty in verse, to cause you to pray more as Jesus instructs?

What Prayer Should Be Like In Terms of Praying To God (v9-10):

8. Why does praying to God as Father transform our prayer lives?
9. What does it ask for God’s name to be “hallowed”? How could you ask for that to happen?
10. What does it mean to ask for God’s kingdom to come? How could you pray for God’s kingdom to come?

What Prayer Should Be Like in Terms of Praying for Ourselves (v11-15):

11. What does it meant to pray for our daily bread?

12. What does it mean to ask God to forgive our debts as we have forgiven our debtors (v12)/ forgiven others their trespasses against us (v14-15)? Are there people that you need to forgive? Have you asked God for forgiveness?
13. What does it mean to ask God not to lead us into temptation?