

Jesus told us how to Pray

Read *Matthew 6:5-15*:

1- Verse 5 says: “*But 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.*”

A. Prayer isn't to be seen by men (you're not praying to them are you?)

(1) Yet, once, Jesus spoke a prayer aloud on **behalf** of the men (people) standing nearby in *John 11:41,42*.

(2) Once in *John 17:1*, Jesus lifted His eyes towards Heaven and prayed.

(3) Once in *Luke 22:41*, Jesus got down on His knees and prayed.

(4) Once in *Matthew 26:39*, Jesus lay face down on the ground and prayed.

(5) Once in *Luke 22:14-17*, Jesus reclined at a table and prayed.

2- Verse 6 says: “*When you pray, go into your room, and close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*”

A. Jesus said to seek private places to pray as He did in *Mark 1:35*.

B. But, He also prayed with His disciples in *John 17*.

C. And, He prayed in public places, where God even answered Him so that the people He was praying for would hear Him, according to *John 12:28,29*.

3- Verses 7,8 say: “*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.*”

A. Did Jesus command us to pray only short prayers, and never to repeat the same thing twice in a prayer? Or, was He simply telling us that God is not impressed with prepared speeches made to bring praise to the one praying, from those who hear his prayer?

- B. The “*Lord’s Prayer*” here is short, yet Jesus once prayed all night according to ***Luke 6:12***.
 - C. Jesus repeated the same words (“*let this cup pass from Me*”) in His prayers in the Garden, according to ***Matthew 26:39,42,44***; but, they were not vain babblings or mere repetitions.
 - D. Notice, Jesus gave us the command not to pray “*babblings*” or “*repetitions*” over and over just before He gave us “The Lord’s Prayer,” as a guide or outline to show us how to pray to God.
- 4- In **Verse 9** Jesus begins the “*Lord’s Prayer*” by saying: “***This is how you should pray,***” not, “***repeat after Me.***”
- 5- **Verse 9** goes on and gives us the introduction to any prayer: “***Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your Name.***”
- A. Jesus said God should be addressed as “*Father.*” ***Matthew 23:9*** forbids us to call anyone else “*Father*” (yes, that includes the Pope and priests). Jesus said only God can and should be addressed as “*Father.*”
 - B. “*Hallow*” is to make holy, or to give great respect, praise and honor to. You are speaking to your Creator, not your “*daddy.*”
 - C. ***Exodus 20:7*** says “*You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.*” Ever mumble a meaningless prayer before a meal?
- 6- **Verse 10** says “***Your Kingdom come.***” Jesus was speaking of the Christian Kingdom here on earth that His disciples would later start on the Day of Pentecost as recorded in ***Acts 1,2***. We pray that the same Kingdom will come with the same King, and we will all be gathered together in Heaven.
- 7- **Verse 10** goes on and says: “***Your will be done.***”
- A. ***1 John 5:14*** says: “*If we ask anything in accordance to His will, He hears us.*” When you ask God for something, you must be willing to accept God’s will over your own...even when God’s will differs from your own will.
 - B. Most of the time, when we pray, we are asking god for our will to be done, and we already have the way the prayer is supposed to be answered outlined for God. ***James 4:3*** says: “*When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your own pleasures.*”

- C. So, how do you know what God's will is? **Romans 8:26-28** says: *“The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know how we ought to pray, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him...”*
- D. **I Corinthians 2:11** adds: *“For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”*
- E. **James 4:13-15** concludes: *“Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that’...”*
- F. Remember **Ephesians 6:18** and **Jude 20**: *“...pray at all times in the Spirit.”*
- 8- **Verse 11** says: *“Give us today our daily bread.”* The word for bread here refers to food of any kind. In this country, we take it for granted. It can be taken from us!
- A. **Verses 25-34** tells us God will give these things to us, if we put Him and His Kingdom first in our lives: *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air, they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?*
And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

9- **Verses 12,14,15** say: *“Forgive us our debts (sins), as we also have forgiven our debtors (those who have sinned against us)...(14,15) 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.”*

A. Jesus illustrated this point in **Matthew 18:21-35**: *“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?’*

Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Therefore, the kingdom of Heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents (several million dollars) was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

But, when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii (100 times a days wage). He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay off the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers until he should pay back all that he owed.

This is how My heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

B. Jesus warns us **in Matthew 7:1,2**: *“Do not judge, lest you be judged yourselves. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.”*

C. **James 2:13** also warns: *“For judgment will be merciless to the one who has shown no mercy: mercy triumphs over judgment.”*

10- **Verse 13** concludes: *“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One (Satan).”*

- A. It is not God who tempts us to do evil --- it is the “Evil One,” or Satan.
James 1:13 says: “*Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.*”
- B. But, when we are tempted --- remember *I Corinthians 10:13,14*: “*But when we are tempted, God will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it (the temptation). Therefore, my dear friends, FLEE...*”
- C. **GOD SAYS, WE CAN ESCAPE ANY TEMPTATION...IF WE WANT TO! GOD SHOWS US THE WAY OF ESCAPE, BUT IT’S UP TO US TO TAKE IT.**

11- NOW READ, “WHO DOES GOD LISTEN TO?”