

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Sunday, June 20, 2021

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 37. Prayer – Part 1 – Matthew 6:5-7

Pastor Phillip M Way

Intro: Do not “do your righteousness” to be seen by men – giving, praying, fasting. Why? Because that allows sin to intrude into our worship and service to God. – (MLJ Intro Quote)

- I. When You Pray – vs. 5
 - A. Prayer is Expected
 - B. Prayer is to be a Regular Mindset – 1 Thess. 5:17
 - C. Prayer is to be Public and Private
 - D. Prayer is Communion – relationship building
 1. God does not need us to pray for His information – vs. 8
 2. God does not need us to repeat prayers over and over to persuade Him – Luke 11:10-13
 3. God is more willing to answer than we are to pray – Matt. 7:7-12; James 4:3
 4. Communion (conversation) requires attention but is not scripted (rote routine), it is spontaneous
- II. Our Motive in Prayer – vs. 5
 - A. Hypocrites Pray to be Seen by Men – Luke 18:11; 20:46-47
 1. My interest in talking to God is actually myself – CHS Q #1
 2. Prayer at the corner and the Temple (hurry up and see me – I can’t wait to pray!)
 3. A desire to have an effect – MLJ Q #2
 - B. Hypocrites Pray Seeking Reward – popularity, self-aggrandizement – CHS Quote #3
- III. Our Method in Prayer – vs. 7
 - A. Heathens Pray Using Vain Repetition
 1. Prayer wheels, rosary beads
 2. Set times – MLJ Q #4
 - B. Heathens Pray Believing They Must Earn a Hearing
- IV. How to Pray Rightly – vs. 6
 - A. Pray to Your Father – RA Torrey Q #5
 1. You are talking to Your Father, who is ALMIGHTY GOD!
 2. Worship (ACTS)
 3. Remember that Jesus and the Spirit pray for you – Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:26-27, 34
 4. Pray on the basis of the death of Jesus – Heb. 10:19, 22; John 14:6; Heb. 4:14-16
 5. Pray in and by the power of the Spirit – Rom. 15:13; Eph. 6:18; Jude 1:20 – Piper Q #6
 - B. Pray to Be Seen and Heard Only by Him – the closet shuts things out
 1. We must shut ourselves away from others
 2. We must shut ourselves away from self
 3. When you are in communion with God and nobody around you knows, you have entered your closet
 4. But beware – “It is possible for a man to pray in secret in such a way that everybody knows he is praying in secret.” MLJ
 - C. Pray Knowing You Will Receive Your Reward (to the praise and glory of the Lamb) – Heb. 11:6; Rev. 5:8-14; 8:1-5
 1. The Reward of Communion
 2. The Reward of Answers

Quotes

MLJ Intro Quote - "Nothing is quite so fallacious as to think of sin only in terms of actions; and as long as we think of sin only in terms of things actually done, we fail to understand it. Sin, since before the fall, is essentially a disposition. It is a state of heart. It is ultimately self-worship. Our Lord here shows that this tendency to self-adulation is something that follows us even into the very presence of God. It sometimes produces this result; that even when we try to persuade ourselves that we are worshipping God, we are actually worshipping ourselves. We tend to think of sin as we see it in its rags and in the gutters of life. We look at the drunkard, poor fellow, and we say, 'There is sin; that is sin.' But that is not the essence of sin. To have a real picture and a true understanding of it, you must look at some great saint, some unusually devout and devoted man. Look at him there upon his knees in the very presence of God. Even there self is intruding itself, and the temptation is for him to think about himself, to think pleasantly and pleasurably about himself, and really to be worshipping himself rather than God. That, not the other, is the true picture of sin."

CHS Q #1 - "Lord, let me never be so profane as to pray to thee with the intent of getting praise for myself."

MLJ Q #2 - "A desire to have an effect upon the people present while we pray rather than to approach God with reverence and godly fear."

CHS Q #3 - "They wanted to be seen of men. They were seen. They had what they sought for. This was their reward, and the whole of it."

MLJ Q #4 - "If our concern is primarily to pray at the set time rather than to pray, we may as well not pray. It is not only a question of the set time, however; the subtle danger shows itself in yet another way. Great saints, for instance, have always spent much time in prayer and in the presence of God. Therefore, we tend to think that the way to be a saint is to spend much time in prayer and in the presence of God. But the important point about the great saint is not that he spent much time in prayer. He did not keep his eye on the clock. He knew he was in the presence of God, he entered eternity as it were. Prayer was his life; he could not live without it. He was not concerned about remembering the length of time. The moment we begin to do that, it becomes mechanical, and we have ruined everything."

RA Torrey Q #5 - "We should never utter one syllable of prayer, either in public or in private, until we are definitely conscious that we have come into the presence of God and are actually praying to Him."

Piper Q #6 - "Let your normal, regular praying be to the Father, through the Spirit in the name of Jesus, but realize that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are Persons and to speak to them as a saved sinner would cannot be unnatural."

Cross References

1 Thessalonians 5:17

17 pray without ceasing,

Luke 11:10-13

10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Matthew 7:7-12

7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! 12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

James 4:3

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

Luke 18:11

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.

Luke 20:46-47

46 “Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, 47 who devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation.”

Hebrews 7:25

25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Romans 8:34

34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Romans 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Hebrews 10:19

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

Hebrews 10:22

22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Romans 15:13

13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 6:18

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

Jude 20

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

Hebrews 11:6

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Revelation 5:8-14

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain,

and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.” 11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!” 13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!” 14 Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

Revelation 8:1-5

8 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. 3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand. 5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

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