

JESUS, ON PRAYER

Matthew 6:5-8

Introduction: It is only logical and reasonable to think that whenever a person is in prayer that he/she is serious and intent on petitioning God for something or on behalf of someone, however Jesus is showing in this text that even on one's knees in what appears to be prayer, one can still be sinful in his/her petitions to God. Jesus gives some warnings about prayer.

I. THERE ARE TWO WAYS OF PRAYING:

1. There is the false way:

- Jesus pointed out that some like to show off when praying in public.
 - Being interested in one's self as one who prays and making sure that everyone else knows all about it. (bragging on length, time, etc.)
 - The desire to be seen by others when praying. (public places, etc.)
 - Wanting to impress those present, hearing, seeing, etc. rather than to approach God with reverence and fear. (using eloquent words, etc.)
- Forms of prayer can be "showy."
 - The length and frequency of prayer, using beads, crosses, bible, at appointed places.

2. There is the right way:

- One needs to exclude some things when praying:
 - Others, get to a private place (closet)
- Realize you are seeking the presence of Almighty God.
 - God is our Heavenly Father and is able to do more than one could ever ask.
 - You are one of His Children.
- Express simple confidence as a child would of his/her parent.
 - That our heavenly father is interested in us and already knows what we need.

CONCLUSION:

1. As a Father, God wants us to keep coming to Him with our desires (personal contact), rather than to take Him for granted.
2. We must come with confidence, knowing God is much more ready to give/answer, than we are to receive.
3. We are to go to our Heavenly Father quietly, privately and He will answer our prayers openly.
4. Shame on us for being less than God's desire for us. We are meant to be "royal" children.
5. When we come to our Father in simplicity, faith, confidence, knowledge of God as our Heavenly Father, He will bless us until we cry "enough, enough."