

THE MOUNT MESSAGE: LESSON 10

THE DISCIPLES & PRAYER (MATTHEW 6:5-15)

The EXPERIENCE Bible Study

Rev. John F. Kenney, Pastor

October 5, 2021



1

OVERVIEW

- Matthew expands the unit on prayer by adding the contrast between "***Gentile***" ***prayer and authentic disciples prayer*** (vs.7-8); ***the Lord's Prayer*** (vs.9-13); ***the condition of forgiveness*** (vs.14-15)

By doing this, the section on prayer becomes the theological center of the Sermon on the Mount, with the Lord's Prayer becoming the core of this center.

FOCUS OF PRAYER (VS.5-6)

- 1. For Matthew, prayer is not aimed at applause from humans but rather prayer is to be directed to God alone.
- 2. For Matthew, prayer is not understood psychologically, or for how it affects those listening and the one praying but rather, ***prayer is a God-centered act of worship.***
- 3. The act of prayer is not condemned but the ***motive*** for prayer is however.
- 4. Prayer does not require a holy place but it is ***sanctified*** when addressed to God (***storeroom, secret closet is not meant literally but is a metaphor for addressing God alone***)

DISTINCTIVENESS OF PRAYER (VS.7-8)

- 1. Matthew distinguishes between authentic prayer, hypocrites praying & perverse Gentile prayer.
- 2. "Many words" refers to not merely length, but also to the invocation of many gods; the repetition of ritual prayer formulas and to empty, insincere talk.
- 3. Matthew pictures Christians praying, not for manipulative purposes or for self-interest of person praying but as an expression of trust in a God who knows our needs before we ask

PATTERN FOR PRAYER (VS.9-13)

- "Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name ***be kept*** holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and ***forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.*** And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:9-13 NLT)



PATTERN FOR PRAYER (CONT.)

- 1. Jesus presents the Lord Prayer as the pattern for prayer - prayer consists of an ***address & 2 sets*** of three petitions.
- 2. 1st century Jewish prayers addressed God as "Our Father", prayed for God's hallowed name & the coming of God's kingdom.
- 3. Matthew was deeply influenced by this prayer & its dominant themes (***God as Father, the coming kingdom of God, doing the will of God, the need for receiving divine forgiveness***)

PATTERN FOR PRAYER (CONT.)

- 4. The Matthean form of Lord's Prayer became dominant in the history of the church. It ***shaped/formed the focus of worship & prayer life of the church for over 1,000-years.***

Click to add text

5. As the English language has evolved, modern translations have incorporated minor changes attempting to ***preserve/express original meaning.*** (ex/ "trespasses" vs "debts")



PRAYER

- Lord God, prayer is crucial to our lives and because it is, help us to have pure and sincere prayer lives. ***Refine our motives so that our prayers will reflect the purity of our relationship with You.***
In Jesus name, Amen.

Let's
Pray!