

## **The Subject Of Prayer**

### ***Matthew 6:5-15***

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Jesus got to the heart of the matter in regard to prayer. Matt. 5:9-13

What is so important about prayer? And what is so important about the Lord's Prayer? Prayer is when we commune with God.

Prayer is when we get in touch with God and if there was ever anyone we needed to know and have a relationship with, it's God!

Here is what Moses said to his people: Deut. 4:7 "What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him?" God is always near to us, but He's even nearer when we pray!

What's so important about the Lord's Prayer? What can we learn from it? Several things.

In this prayer Jesus teaches us to pray about many things: the kingdom, the church, our daily provisions, people, temptation, etc. If we can't talk to the Lord about these things then who in the world can we talk to about these things?

#### **WHEN YOU PRAY, DON'T PUT ON A SHOW**

Matthew 6:5 "And 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..."

If you are asked to pray in public, just remember that we are not in the "show business." We are in the God business of trying to honour and please Him. Any time you pray you are talking to God, not to people.

#### **WHEN YOU PRAY, GET AWAY FROM PEOPLE**

Matthew 5:6 "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

We all need a private time for prayer. We need this both for ourselves and for the sake of others, for those on our prayer list.

#### **WHEN YOU PRAY, DON'T BABBLE ON AND ON**

Matthew 5:7 “And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.”

Sometimes we think that we get more for our money the slower we go. Or perhaps the longer we pray, we think the more spiritual we are. Jesus said: “When you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.”

#### WHEN YOU PRAY, FORGIVE OTHERS

Matthew 6:14-15 One of the hardest things that we have to do in life is to forgive others. If we want God’s forgiveness, we too, must somehow learn to forgive. Jesus did it best and did it on Calvary when He prayed for those who crucified Him, “Father, forgive them for they know not...” When you pray, forgive others.

That’s the kind of praying we need!