



“Don’t Pray...”

Series: “LIVING FROM THE INSIDE OUT”, Part 10 of 19

Sunday, August 27, 2023, at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Mat Saxon | Latham Campus

Text: Matthew 6:5-8, “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” (ESV)

Matthew 6:5-6, “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” (ESV)

I. Don’t make a show of your prayer life.

Luke 5:15b-16, “...great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.” (ESV)

Matthew 14:23, “And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,” (ESV)

Mark 1:35, “And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.” (ESV)

Acts 1:14, “All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.” (ESV)

2 Timothy 1:3, “I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.” (ESV)

John 11:38-39a, 41-42, "Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone... So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." (ESV)

Matt 6:7, "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words." (ESV)

II. Don't mistake quantity for quality.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing," (ESV)

Luke 18:1, "One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up." (NLT)

Ephesians 6:18, "Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere." (NLT)

Isaiah 1:13-15, "Stop bringing me your meaningless gifts; the incense of your offerings disgusts me! As for your celebrations of the new moon and the Sabbath and your special days for fasting—they are all sinful and false. I want no more of your pious meetings. I hate your new moon celebrations and your annual festivals. They are a burden to me. I cannot stand them! When you lift up your hands in prayer, I will not look. Though you offer many prayers, I will not listen," (NLT)

Colossians 4:2, "Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart." (NLT)

1 Corinthians 14:19, "In a church meeting I would rather speak five understandable words to help others than ten thousand words in an unknown language. (NLT)

Matt 6:8, "Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." (ESV)

1 Kings 18:26-29, "So they prepared one of the bulls and placed it on the altar. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning until noontime, shouting, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no reply of any kind. Then they danced, hobbling around the altar they

had made. About noontime Elijah began mocking them. “You’ll have to shout louder,” he scoffed, “for surely he is a god! Perhaps he is daydreaming, or is relieving himself. Or maybe he is away on a trip, or is asleep and needs to be wakened!” So they shouted louder, and following their normal custom, they cut themselves with knives and swords until the blood gushed out. They raved all afternoon until the time of the evening sacrifice, but still there was no sound, no reply, no response.” (NLT)

“Instead of trusting a father to fulfill their needs, they think they must badger a reluctant deity into taking notice of them.” – R.T. France

Matthew 10:29-31, “What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin [a] ? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. 30 And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.” (NLT)

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