

Matthew 6:5-9 When You Pray (The King and His Kingdom)

King and His Kingdom – This Section calling the Heartbeat of the Kingdom

A) **Sermon on the Mount** – The King's Manifesto

B) The King's world view

C) Starts – Beatitudes – first one Key – **Blessed are the poor in Spirit**

1) Destitute – Utter dependency – **theirs is the kingdom of heaven**

D) Jesus as a man lived in dependency upon His Father – **Anointing of the Holy Spirit**

He was concerned about – The Kingdom – the advancement of the Kingdom –

A) **Your Kingdom come – your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven -**

B) Today we are going to begin to see – one of the Key elements that Kept Jesus focused – Strengthened

1) Demands/ pressure/ always on point – Why?

C) **Prayer life** – I find it ironic – of all the things that the disciples asked Him to teach them it was this –

1) Teach us to pray. – Luke's account – adds

D) Really: Not Preach or teach Bible studies, not do miracles, not heal – Pray!

Reason was although as good Jewish boys they had been praying their whole lives –

A) seen parents pray – religious leaders pray.

B) There was something about the life of Jesus and the prayer life of Jesus that seemed so different –

1) They realized Prayer was a big part of it! -Teach us

Matt 6:5-6 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in

the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. 9 In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

4 things we want to consider today about what Jesus is teaching about Prayer.

#1 The Audience

"And when you pray, you shall not be like **the hypocrites**. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Start by contrast – Don't do this: Jewish people pray three times a day 9am, noon, 6pm. –

A) Plane to Israel - Standing in the isle facing east – bopping up and down

B) Here Jesus is talking about the religious leaders in his day – **who wanted everyone to know how spiritual they were.**

C) They loved to stand in the synagogue and wax eloquent – people hear them pray

1) They would pray on the street corner

D) Reason: **They are wanting to be seen and heard by men**

E) They don't know their audience – praying to be seen and heard by men and not the Lord

Jesus says People who pray that way get all the reward that they're going to get

A) What's the reward?

B) They get seen by men **clap, clap**, that is your reward – congratulations to been seen by man – that was an awesome prayer

1) AVOID THAT

C) Remember – talking to God – not putting on a show!

I love listening to new believers pray so sincere!

A) So simple – God, Jim here I was wondering if you could help me with something I'd really appreciate it, thanks. Amen

B) I've even heard new believers **cuss in prayer** I thought it was precious just sincere, being in real
1) Not suggesting – Cuss in prayer – Be REAL

C) **God appreciates honesty and sincerity** – David a man after my own heart. – Prayers are Raw
1) Lord why? NOT FAIR - This stinks – Kill my enemies -

D) God recorded those in the Bible – I think ONE reason is to illustrate – be real!

E) **So first he deals with – what not to do!**
1) Then - Jesus precedes to tell us what the prayer looks like that moves heaven

#2 A Secret place V.6- **But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.**

A) Note this Jesus is not **prohibiting public prayer** or prayer in Church but what Jesus is saying is this:

Prayer is primarily a private thing.

B) **So the first thing that Jesus says about Prayer – has to do with where you pray!**

C) You might think that's not important because you can pray anywhere!
You're right I think you can pray anywhere

You can pray on the 78 FWY on your way to work – while you're putting on your makeup – How do you that?

A) I pray on the 78 when I see you doing that!

B) You can pray on the treadmill at the gym -I do – help me Jesus – let this get over with quickly and Lord make it work

C) You can pray out surfing at the beach, I would – Lord don't let me get eaten by a shark today

D) You can pray all the way to school **“Lord don't let there be a quiz don't let there be a quiz”**–

E) You can pray coming home late after curfew **Lord don't let my parents be awake.....**

Yes you can pray anywhere at any time but when Jesus starts this discussion about prayer he talks about the proper place to pray!

A) Somehow **location is** important to Jesus!

B) A Secret place – A private place –

1) Go to the Secret place – The Father **who is in the secret place -**

C) Idea there is not that God is hiding out in some secret place –

1) No the reference is to YOUR SECRET PLACE you go there: **He is there waiting for you.**

Interesting Jesus says go to your Room:

A) The specific ancient Greek word used here for "room" was the word used for a storeroom where treasures were kept.

B) Significant- because there **are treasures waiting for you in your prayer room!**

1) Your secret place

C) Doesn't have to be a room – It can be a secure place –

1) Backyard or my office at home – {PLACE WITH NO DISTRACTIONS

D) I have several all over the city – Park – hill top a beach spot –

JESUS MODELED THIS! We read of Jesus in Mark chapter 1:35 ³⁵ Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

If there was ever a moment in the life of Jesus where He could have got swept up in the emotion of the moment it was this one

A) The day before – Lots of people healed –

B) Jesus gets up early – goes to a secret place – meets with His father –

C) Disciples finally find him – EVERYONE IS LOOKING FOR YOU – News – officials

1) Everyone – Exciting –

D) Jesus says – Time to move on – NEXT TOWNS

1) This reason I have come forth

E) Come forth from the secret place with direction from my FATHER

SO If you desire to grow in your prayer life it's going to start with having a secret place - a private place -

A) Pick a place that is going to be void of distractions

B) Also suggest a SET TIME - Me morning - Lunch Time - Brengle

C) I say that because if I try to make it random - it usually doesn't happen

1) Set place - set time - INTENTIONAL

I Think the best way to illustrate this is my relationship with Denise

A) Denise and I have a great marriage - best friend - comfortable - no major problems.

B) But this is what we have discovered: If our only conversation is just the every day conversations,

1) Where we are talking ON THE GO about schedules and talking about budgets talking about all the stuff we need to do -

C) Dealing with ministry - issues dealing with the life stuff - and schedules.

1) If that is the only kind of conversations we have

D) I can be sitting 3 inches away from this person I love with all my heart and yet feel - Distant -

1) Feel completely disconnected

There's no problems - we are not arguing - there are no issues but I can feel completely distant toward her or she can feel completely distant from me

A) And it's not because we were not talking/ were talking all the time

B) BUT....there is a big difference between doing life together & talking about life and all those things

1) and getting away FOR an evening to walk at the beach {take in a sunset

C) Sitting down and really sharing our hearts!

1) We have to be INTENTIONAL ABOUT THAT!

D) The same is true with the Lord - I can talk to Him all through the day -

1) But I need those times in my week - special time get alone - quiet - HEAR HIS HEARTBEAT

E) Peter Acts 10: Lunch - busy time in the house

1) He goes to the roof - Quiet place / Q. time - Quiet Heart - **God rewards - Vision - New ministry**

Next thing Jesus says about Prayer - Prayer is meant to be:

#3 An intelligent conversation V.7,8

"And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words."

A) This is what He is saying - **I want your prayer time to be intelligent** - not about the length - not about repetition.

B) Rabbi's thought - prayer had to be long in order to be heard - They had these repeat phrases

1) Jesus saying that is not the case - Avoid - vain repetition! -

C) **You don't need to inform God - the story**

1) Sometimes I am Tempted praying for sick - Lord you know - doctors..... HE KNOWS - that body...

In fact notice what Jesus says next - V.8

8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

A) It's not like God's in heaven going, "Thanks for telling me. I had no idea.

B) You are unemployed? You got ripped off? Wow!

1) I must have been asleep at the wheel. I appreciate the information. Now I'm all caught up."

C) **NO God sees and knows everything.**

1) When we come to prayer we're not telling God something he doesn't know.

So avoid vain repetition - not about many words

A) Jesus wants us to know that God is not moved by the specific content of your prayers or the length of your prayers

B) God is not moved by **eloquence or even theology**

C) Jesus is telling us that TRUE prayer is supposed to be heartfelt – honest

1) Scared? – tell Him – Frustrated? – tell Him

D) Here is what that means: The primary point of prayer is not to go to God and say, “God, here’s what I need.”

E) The Primary point of prayer is to BE WITH HIM!

PRAYER is meant to be:

#4 An intimate relationship

A) Father – talking to Father –

B) Jesus mentions that 4 times in these 5 verses and that was a **radical NEW concept**

1) The Jewish people were not trained to address God as Father! -

C) There are only 14 times in the OT where God is referred to as father, always done nationally.

1) He’s the Father of the whole nation of Israel.

D) In other words it wasn’t personal – He is the Father of the Nation - not personal

Jesus makes it personal – Intimate: Not religion but RELATIONSHIP –

A) Interesting that there is no prayer to God as Father in the Bible until – Jesus does it

B) In the four gospels Jesus speaks of and prays to God as father 60 times.

C) Here He is saying to us – **When you pray – say Father -- Abba = Daddy**

1) Say Dad - coming to you

D) When You go into the secret place to pray – the treasure Room – **know this: Dad is waiting for you!**

E) That right there motivates me to pray more!

This to me is amazing. God’s not impersonal. He’s personal. He’s not a force. He has a name.

A) He’s not angry. He’s loving. He’s not far away. He’s close.

B) He’s not negligent. He’s involved in the life of his children.

1) He is interested – Knows the number of hairs on your head

D) Thoughts for you outnumber the sand – not thoughts of evil – but good

1) Give you a future and a hope

C) So talk to Him as your daddy-

1) Jesus is teaching us here that Prayer is primarily about spending intimate time with God – with Dad!

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! – 1 John 3:1

A) Behold – look at and be amazed – the almighty God loves you – His Child

B) If God had an iPhone – Your pic on Screensaver

C) Check out my kids!

Some of you really struggle with this idea of God as Dad – the reason is you have a lousy dad. –

A) Your dad left. He abused. He abandoned.

B) He raped. He beat. He divorced your mom.

1) He walked out on your family. He is a horrible man!

C) What I would say is this, **do not judge God by your earthly father, judge your earthly father by your Heavenly Father.**

1) My dad was a jerk; I guess God is a jerk.

Or I just can’t relate to God as a father.

Instead Embrace what the Bible says about God as your father – He is a wonderful Father who loves you completely.

A) So much so that He sent His son Jesus to come to earth – become a man – perfect man - in order to go to a cross to pay the price for your sin.

B) So that you could become His child – so that you could be adopted into His family –

1) Place your faith in Christ

C) Important to understand – God is not the Father of every human being – He is the creator – But He is only the father to those who believe in Jesus

John 1:12

12 But as many as received Him, {JESUS} to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name

IS HE YOUR FATHER? OR JUST CREATOR?

HAVE YOU RECEIVED JESUS?

BECOME HIS CHILD TODAY – FAITH IN JESUS

DISCOVER - He is a wonderful father who loves His kids **perfectly – completely** – Who is there for His kids –who is attentive

A)Who is for His Kids – THEIR BEST INTEREST –

B)Who desires more than anything that we would learn to spend time with Him – enjoy intimate relationship with Him.

C)So Jesus says – When you pray find a private place –

1) Don't spend all your time on your NEEDS WANTS AND WISHES – father knows that stuff

D)Call Him father – Learn to enjoy His presence

E)One more thing: Your Father is:
#5 A Great God!

V. 9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

A)HALLOWED = Holy – **There is none like you!**

B)You are set apart – perfect in all your ways -

1)Great in your Power – Awesome in your love

C)Jesus is saying: Spend some time there – Declaring the Greatness of your FATHER!

D)When you begin to understand the greatness of God – when you pause long enough to declare His greatness –

1) it puts everything else into perspective

E)All the unresolved issues plaguing my mind – suddenly get smaller – seen in light of who He is

The more time I spend on who it is that I am talking to – the more confident you will be that He is with you when you leave

A)More confidence you will have in His ability to help.

B)The problem for many of us is that we don't spend much time there at all

1)We rush past this going directly to our needs, wants, wishes, our concerns

C)Jesus says – **that is fine to do** – bring God your needs, wants, wishes, and concerns –

1)but if that is all you do –you are missing a critical piece of prayer –

D)Intimacy and relationship that leads to having the right perspective about my needs.

I think this is what Jesus had in mind when He said on three separate occasions – **You must become like Little Children to enter the kingdom of God.**

A)Child like faith sees beyond the rational

B)Dad can do anything – Dad is superman – Dad is awesome

C)Then our kids **become teenagers** and they realize that none of that is true!

1)Dad is fallible – doesn't know everything...idiot

D)But that is **not the case with God our father** – He is awesome, powerful, all knowing –

1)He can do ANYTHING

E)Come to God as Daddy – Childlike faith that He can do anything – Dream big –

1)Nothing too hard for God -

Example of David: David goes to visit his bros at the battle field - Hears Goliath

A)SEND ME A MAN – Everyone was afraid – all they saw was a giant – killing machine

B)David comes along – Who is this uncircumcised Philistine – Defy the armies of the Living God !!!!

C)Why did David at 15 have such a different perspective?

According to the Chronological Bible – which places events of the Bible in order of occurrence

A)The Reese CB – puts the writing of Psalm 19 and Psalm 8 RIGHT BEFORE – this encounter

B)This is what David wrote in those two Psalms

Psalms 19

**v.1 “The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament shows His handiwork.”**

Psalms 8:3-4

“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, 4 What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?”

C)This is what David had been meditating on when he comes to the Battle –hears Goliath.

1)No wonder his perspective was different that the rest of the men – Who is this ...vs Living God?

D)My God made heaven and Earth – HE IS AWESOME – you are nothing

See when we approach God as our Father who loves us – for us – With us

A)Our Father is great and AWESOME IN ALL HIS WAYS – greater than anything life throws at us

**B)Changes everything: See things Rightly
So Can I encourage you – Tomorrow – Secret place**

A)Remember: Your heavenly father – is waiting for you.

B)Excited to see you - Spend a few minutes – basking in His glory!

C)Read a Psalm – reflect on his majesty – His power – His faithfulness

D)His incredible Love !

Sent His Son – Die in your place

A)Beat Death

B)Free us from the power of the enemy

1)Free us from power of sin

2)Free us from the fear of death

C)QUESTION: Do you know Him?

Eternal life – John 17:3 – Know God