

A PATTERN FOR PRAYER

Matthew 6:5-15

**When it comes to prayer, we should practice what Jesus prescribes,
and thereby become better at it**

I. THE MANDATES OF PRAYER (5-6)

A. A SINCERE PETITION (5-6)

- To whom are you speaking?

1. Publicity Forbidden (5)

a. The command: Don't pray like the hypocrites

b. The conclusion: They have their reward

c. A consideration: Ostentatious prayer is what's forbidden, not all public prayers

2. Privacy Encouraged (6)

a. A Secret Place

b. A Secret Prayer

c. A Secret Perceiver

B. A SIMPLE PETITION (7-8)

- What are we saying?

1. The Prohibition (7)

a. The practice: Babbling

b. A precaution: This does not mean we cannot repeat a prayer

c. The problem: A distant "god"

2. The Prescription (8)

a. Don't be like them

b. Do know that your Father knows!

II. A MODEL FOR PRAYER (9-15)

- Pray in this manner not specifically in these exact words

A. A PROPER DISCERNMENT OF GOD (9a)

1. His Relationship: Father

2. His Reality: In Heaven

Over please >

B. A PIOUS DEVOTION TO GOD (9b-10)

- God's interests are primary not mine

1. Devoted to His Worth (9b)
2. Devoted to His Work_(10a)
3. Devoted to His Will (10b)

C. A PERSONAL DEPENDENCE UPON GOD (11-13a, 14-15)

1. Dependent upon His Provision
2. Dependent upon His Pardon
3. Dependent upon His Protection (13a)

D. A PARTNERSHIP DELINEATED WITH THE GODLY (11-13a)

1. Note the concern for others and not just oneself
2. "Our" bread ... "Our" debts ... "Our" temptations

[E. A PRAISEWORTHY DECLARATION OF GOD (13b)]

1. This note of praise has no manuscript support
2. It does, however, somewhat closely follow I Chron. 29:11

CONCLUSION:

We must listen and learn from Jesus about proper praying