



Kingdom People

PRAY LIKE THIS

Discussion

How does the response of people to what you do affect you? Whether in front of an audience or just a few people who know, how does praise or criticism affect you? Do you have an example of a “high” moment from something you did? How about a “low”?

Encounter – Read God’s Word so that He can speak to you—**Matthew 6:9-15**

Explore – God’s Word by asking questions of what you saw.

Engage– apply what God says with specific steps of obedience

1)

Jesus' disciples can fall into prayer practices that characterize the pagans. Jesus Himself prayed long prayers (Luke 6:12), and He repeated Himself in prayer (26:44). These practices were not the objects of His criticism. He was attacking the idea that the length of a prayer makes it efficacious. Pagan prayer commonly relies on length and repetition for effectiveness, the sheer quantity of words.

The “model” of prayer Jesus gives contains six requests, all connected with the promised Kingdom: 1-3 are petitions for the coming kingdom; 4-6 are personal requests in view of the coming kingdom. Urgency is noted by the imperative in each request.

Engage cont. – apply what God says with specific steps of obedience

*Make Your Name (who you are) honored/ treated as holy by mankind. (See Isa 29:23; Ezek 36:23 for the promise of when this will be answered)

*Bring in Your promised kingdom.

*Let your sovereign rule and will be exercised on earth just as it is in heaven by the removal of evil and rebellion and the establishment of Your kingdom.

*Until then, give us today (each day) what is needed to sustain life during each day.

*Forgive/remove our spiritual debts which hinder close fellowship with You, in the same way that we maintain fellowship with others through forgiveness. (This is the only request elaborated on in verses 14-15).

*Protect us from the Evil One with obedient wisdom so that we don't believe his lies leading to temptation, but grow in maturity with persevering faith.

Principles on Prayer:

1. Not forbidding public prayer (cf. Acts 4:24ff, etc.). But even this should be between you and your Father, not for people. Your attitude should be **as if** you were in a closet.
2. Model prayer - not the Lord's prayer. This shows the manner of prayer, not actual words.
3. Not a prayer of ritual repetition. Mechanically praying through prayer lists is also vain repetition. Not pious vocabulary or special position of the body.
4. Prayer is a definite act, not just an attitude. It has a beginning and end.
5. Based on filial relationship ("our Father"). He loves us and wants to give the very best.
6. Prayer is essentially petitions; asking God for things.
 - a. Don't be afraid to ask God for things. First 3 directed toward God's purposes (cf. 6:33); last 3 directed toward personal needs.
 - b. One request for physical needs, the rest for spiritual. Cf. Col. 1:9
 - c. Specific petitions, never vague (cf. Jn 11:41, 42; John 17; Luke 22:32)
 - d. Urgent. We must recognize true urgency and the requirement of asking in order to get.
7. Emphasis on forgiveness (vv. 14-15). Dealing with family relationships and fellowship, not salvation.

2) What are some ways that prayer can get “off track” and become what displeases God?

3) If your Father already knows what you need, why ask?

4) How does your prayer-life compare to the model Jesus gives? How is it similar? How does it need to change?

MEMORIZE –Matthew 6:9-13

PRAY Now do it . . . **PRAY** for your needs and for somebody else in a way that shows God’s Kingdom and righteousness are your greatest priority and you are content knowing He already knows what you need.