

Listen UP: What Are You Looking At?

Matthew 6:5-8 and Luke 18:10-16

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry....

James 1:19b

How do you pray?

When do you pray?

What do you say?

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

****Sometimes the people with the most theologically impressive words live the least impressive lives - marriages and parenting.**

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 others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.*

Don't be a hypocrite:

Say what they think others want them to say
and only when others are watching.

Narrow streets mentioned in vs. 2.

Widest (busiest) streets mentioned in verse 5.

Reward: Other people thinking you are ‘super-spiritual’.

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.***

When you pray:

Go into your room and close the door.

Biblical postures of prayer:

— Kneeling (Daniel 6:10)

— Lying on your face (prostrate) Jesus did that.

— Standing - common Jewish custom.

Jews prayed at the third, sixth, ninth hour.

Pray to **the** Heavenly Father?
No... pray to **your** Heavenly Father.

- Don't pray to Jesus
- Don't pray to his mother
- Don't pray to the Holy Spirit

7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Matthew 6:5-8

****That** you pray is more important than **what** you say.

1. The Pharisees (Jews) prayer had become ritualistic.
 2. The Pharisees' parade of piety.
- Rabbis: A long prayer is a 'heard' prayer.
A recovered Jewish prayer - 16 adjectives before God.

Reward: Your Heavenly Father knows?

So... if God already knows, why pray?

He is inviting us into a relationship.

****Relationships don't happen in traffic?**
They can't be 'cooked' in a microwave.
(time, intentionality and focus)

****Set your eyes on Jesus and listen well.**

Music

Sermon Part 2

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10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

13 But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. Luke 18:10-16

Pure motive

Humble heart

Confident Spirit

Every Evening This Week:

Go into your closet (at the end of the day)....

Level One:

Look back on the day and write down things you are thankful for.

Level Two:

Look back on the day and write down blessings or answered prayers for other people in your life.

Level Three:

Look back on your day and write down things that you think God might be trying to communicate to you. (Bible, Circumstances, Other People)