

DEVOTION DOESN'T PUT ITSELF ON DISPLAY pt. 2

A. PRAYER IS NOT A PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

1. (:5) Pharisees Prayed At 9, 12, & 3:00 • Couldn't Wait To Get To Temple, Pray On Street

- a. That public recognition is the only reward you'll get
- b. Prayer is not a public demonstration of your spirituality
- c. Note: (:6a) when - not if; Jesus assumes His people pray
- d. Prayer is where your relationship w/God is most developed 'cuz it's where faith becomes real
- e. And it's to the practical that Jesus now moves the discussion...

2. (:6) Pray Privately

- a. ≠ Prayer should never be public; = Prayer has to be private before it can be public
- b. If you could have just 10 minutes alone with anyone in history, who would it be?
- c. Now consider that fact that you have a standing invitation to spend as much time as you want, as often as you want, with the creator & sustainer of all that exists;
- d. Jesus is saying, don't just pray when someone is watching. Your best times of prayer are gonna be when there's no one else around

3. (:7) Pray Concisely

- a. Vain repetitions (NKJV), babbling (NIV), Babbling on & on (NLT), meaningless repetition (NASB)
- b. Many words: longer the better - not true

4. (:8) The Purpose Of Prayer Is Not To Inform God Of Your Situation/Needs

- a. Prayer is like "open wide" at the Dentist

5. (:9-14) The Disciple's Prayer "Pray Like This"

- a. Take a look, 1st of all, at who this prayer is for: OUR Father, give us OUR daily bread, forgive Us OUR sins, lead US not into temptation
- b. This prayer can be divided into 3 sections
- c. Three petitions for God's glory (:9-10)
- d. Three petitions for our needs (:11-13a)
- e. One petition for God's glory (13)
- f. When you're pouring your heart out to God, these are the bases you need to cover

5. (:12-15) Then Jesus Comments On Vs. 12 Re. Forgiveness

- a. Holding a grudge against someone only hurts you
- b. This idea seems to be the same thought Jesus had when He sent the 12 to share the Gospel: *Freely you have received, freely give* (Mt. 18:8).
- c. As you receive forgiveness freely, you must also give forgiveness freely. Imagine the impact it might have if the people of the One True God took a few minutes even once each day to open their hearts and lives to Him