



In today's passage, Jesus teaches us how to pray. He contrasts sincere, private prayer with the ostentatious prayers of those who seek admiration from others. Jesus emphasizes the importance of humility and genuine, heartfelt communication with God, and in doing so, advises against fanciful words and vain repetition. Then, Jesus provides a model for prayer. This passage underscores the heart of prayer: sincerity, humility, dependence on God, and forgiveness.

**Key Passage:** Matthew 6:5-15

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What does Jesus mean when He advises against praying publicly like the hypocrites? How can this be applied in our lives today? How should we approach praying publicly?
2. In verse 6, Jesus mentions praying in secret. What might be the significance of a private prayer life compared to public expressions of faith?
3. In verse 7, Jesus warns against using vain repetition in prayer. How can believers ensure their prayers are sincere and meaningful rather than repetitive and hollow?
4. Verse 8 suggests that God knows our needs before we ask. How does this affect our understanding of the purpose and nature of prayer?
5. What does it mean to hallow God's name? How can believers demonstrate this daily?
6. What implications does the petition "Your kingdom come" have for how we should live and engage with the world around us?
7. How does the request for "daily bread" in verse 11 highlight dependence on God? What does this say about balancing self-reliance and reliance on God's provision?
8. Verses 12 and 14-15 discuss forgiveness. How does forgiving others as we have been forgiven influence interpersonal relationships and community life?
9. In verse 13, the prayer includes a plea to be delivered from temptation and evil. What do these words emphasize for our daily lives as followers of Christ?