

April 12, 2015
Matthew 6:5-8

AND WHEN YOU PRAY

I. Introduction: A Childhood Memory on Prayer

II. Unpacking The Passage

A. The Context: The Sermon On The Mount

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. 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. 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

B. What Does Jesus Teach About How To Pray:

Don't Make It A _____

When you pray, don't be like **the hypocrites**, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on street corners to be seen by others... Matthew 6:5

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. Matthew 6:6

1. **Jesus Example of Prayer:**

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a **solitary place, where he prayed.**” Mark 1:35

“But Jesus **often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.**” Luke 5:16

Don't Make It A _____

And when you pray, do not keep **babbling like pagans**, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Matthew 6:7

1. **Jesus Example of Prayer:**

“One of those days, Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and **spent the night** praying to God.” Luke 6:12

“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should **always pay and not give up.**” Luke 18:1

Remember, Prayer is a _____

Do not be like them, for your **Father** knows what you need before you ask him. Matt. 6:8

“Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.” Psalm 139:4

**“And When You Pray”
Matthew 6:5-8**

Open It: (A Point To Ponder)

1. What images or thoughts spring to mind when you hear the word "prayer"?

Explore It: (These questions are related to the text)

2. According to Jesus, what wrong motivation prompts some individuals to pray? ([6:5](#))
3. *What name did Jesus call people who pray for show? Why? ([6:5](#))
4. Where do hypocrites prefer to do their praying? ([6:5](#))
5. What type of reward will religious showmanship bring? ([6:5](#))
6. *How did Jesus command His followers to pray? ([6:6](#))
7. Where did Jesus suggest we talk to God? ([6:6](#))
8. What did Jesus have to say about repetitive or long, windy prayers? ([6:7](#))

9. What insights or facts about God are revealed in this passage? ([6:6](#), [8](#), [9](#))

10. To whom did Jesus tell us to pray? ([6:9](#))

11. What should be our attitude toward God? ([6:9](#))

Get It: (These questions help answer the question, “So What?” These questions relate the scripture to our daily lives.)

12. What common or overused phrases do you hear frequently repeated in people’s prayers?

13. If God knows what we need before we ask, why should we pray?

14. *If Jesus commands us to pray in secret, what is the value of public prayer?

15. Why do many Christians feel uncomfortable praying out loud?

Apply It: (These Questions help us apply the scripture text to our daily lives)

16. *What changes do you need to make in your prayer life?