

Sermon on the Mount Series
"Living the Life of Prayer"
Sunday, September 10, 2017
Dr. Janet Cook, Senior Pastor

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Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are from the NKJV Bible.

Matthew 6:5-15

What Not to Do...

Matthew 6:5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward."

- Don't be like the hypocrites; they prayed because they loved to be seen.
- If you pray to be seen by people, that is your reward.
- The church is a place for public prayer.

What to Do...

Matthew 5:7 "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

- When you have your personal prayer time with God, shut your door.
- Your Father is in the secret place, and He sees in secret.
- Your Father will reward you openly.
- Choose your reward.

What Not to Do...

Matthew 7:7-8a "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them."

- Don't be like the heathen.
- It isn't the length of the prayer; it is the strength of the prayer.

Ecclesiastes 5:2 "Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few."

What to Do...

Matthew 6:8b-9 "For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name."

- We pray to our Father.
John 16:23 "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you."

Matthew 6: 10 “Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.”

- We pray for God’s rule, reign and will to come into the earth realm.

Matthew 6:11 “Give us this day our daily bread.”

- We ask for our daily provisions.

Matthew 6:12 “And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

- We ask for forgiveness of our debts. Debt = G3783 - something owed, a due; morally, a fault.

Matthew 6:13a And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.”

- We ask for deliverance from evil.

Matthew 6:13b “For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

- We acknowledge and declare that God’s kingdom is the power and the glory forever!

If You Forgive...

Matthew 6:14-15 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

- If we want to be forgiven, we choose to forgive.

When the Church Prays...

Acts 12: 5-8 “Peter was therefore kept in prison, **but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.** And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, ‘Arise quickly!’ And his chains fell off his hands. Then the angel said to him, ‘Gird yourself and tie on your sandals;” and so he did. And he said to him, ‘Put on your garment and follow me.’” (Emphasis added.)

Jesus is the head over all things.

Ephesians 1:19-22 “...and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

The church is seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-6 “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

The church can pray according to God's eternal purpose.

“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him” Ephesians 3:9-12 (KJV).