

Home Worship Guide Sunday, January 9th

* Today marks Day 1 of our 21 Days of Prayer. This morning's service was intended to spur us on towards a greater commitment to prayer both now and into this new year. At home, please engage with this guide with that in mind.

Read: Matthew 6:1-13 (ESV)

1 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

2 “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

5 “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this:

**“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
10 Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread,
12 and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.”**

Questions:

1.) What phrase is repeated in verses 5, 6, and 7? What's implied in that phrase?

2.) According to the words of Jesus here, what sorts of things should be motivating our prayers (you may need to read between the lines)? What sorts of things should not be motivating our prayers? For further thought read Luke 18:9-14.

3.) What are some practical applications that we can take from this passage and implement into our prayer lives?

Suggested Prayer Items:

- Ask God to develop our desire and motivation for prayer over the course of these next 21 days.
- Pray for one person from our congregation.
- What are some things that you're thankful to God for right now. Take a moment to thank Him for these things.

Closing Song:

I LIFT MY EYES UP

I lift my eyes up, up to the mountains.
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from You
Maker of heaven, creator of the earth.

CHORUS:

Oh how I need You, Lord
You are my only hope
You are my only prayer
So I will wait for You
To come and rescue me
To come and give me life.