**Lord Teach Us to Pray – Matt. 6:5-6**

**Focal Truth: When you pray – pray to God the Father in a secret place**

**Observations**

1. **When you pray - do not pray this way** – **6:5,7,8**

*When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly they have their reward in full.*

*When you pray do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.*

1. Do not pray like a hypocrite to impress people – 6:5

They pray in public to be seen praying by others

They are rewarded by people’s response to their public praying

1. Do not pray like a pagan with meaningless repetition– 6:7

They pray meaningless repeated words – lit = **to babble – empty words/phrases**

They think prayer is heard because they say many words

1. Do not pray to impress God

they think that they will be heard by God because of their many words

1. **When you pray - pray in secret to God the Father who hears your secret prayer – 6:6**

*But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret…*

**Note: “but you” – in contrast to the prayer of hypocrites & pagans**

**“When you pray” – habit of prayer**

**“pray” – lit. to come toward with a desire, or wish**

**Praying is coming to God with a desire or wish**

1. Jesus practiced the holy habit of secret prayer to God the Father

Lk. 5:16 – *Jesus would often slip away to the wilderness and pray*

Mk. 1:35 – *very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed*

1. God’s holy people in the OT & NT practiced the holy habit of secret prayer

Moses, Abraham, Isaac, David, Daniel, Elijah, Paul, Peter, John,

1. When you pray - Set a regular time to pray alone in secret – ***when you pray***

I am never less alone than when alone, for then I can enjoy the presence of God most freely, fully, and sweetly without interruption – Ambrose

1. When you pray - Find a secret place to pray alone in secret – ***go into your inner room, close your door***
2. When you pray - Pray to God the Father alone in secret – ***pray to your Father who is in secret***

God the Father meets secretly with His people

God the Father met secretly with the Lord Jesus

My God and I are great company – Sibbes

**Consider: Do you pray secretly to God the Father?**

**Do you secretly meet God daily in prayer?**

**Do you tell God the Father your secrets in secret prayer?**

**Does God tell you His secrets in secret prayer?**

Ps. 25:14 – *the secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him…*

1. **When you pray - God the Father who hears secret prayer rewards secret prayer – 6:6**

*Your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you*

1. God the Father sees & meets us in secret prayer – ***Your Father who sees what is done in secret***

Hos. 2:14 – *I will allure her, and bring her to the wilderness, and speak friendly or comfortably to her = to her heart!*

1. God the Father rewards secret prayer – ***will reward you***

Heb. 11:6 – *without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him*

How does God the Father reward us in our prayers?

* He hears our prayers in the name of Jesus – *I will do what you ask my name*
* He answers our prayers – *this is the confidence if we ask anything according His will he hears us and we know we have the things we ask for from Him*
* He assures us
* He blesses us
* He fellowships with us
* He transforms us into great Christlikeness

1. God the Father knows what You need before you ask – 6:8

***for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him***

**Consider: God desires to meet His children in secret prayer**

**God the Father desires to have fellowship in secret prayer**

**God the Father knows our secrets but loves us to tell Him our secrets!**

Ps. 139:4 – *Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold O Lord, you*

*know it*

**Things to Remember and Do**

1. **God does not hear the prayers of hypocrites & pagans**

Hypocrites never pray in secret to God but only in public for other people

Pagans pray determined to get God’s attention by empty babbling for sinful pleasures

1. **Prayer is secretly meeting with God – Meet God the Father daily in secret prayer**

Prayer is secretly meeting God to tell him our secret hurts, joys, needs & desires

Prayer is secretly meeting with God in loving worship & fellowship

Secretly meeting with God is the greatest meeting in a day!

Secret time with God is the best time of the day!

1. **A secret meeting place for prayer with God the Father is the best place**

God loves to hear our secrets in secret prayer

Nothing is more encouraging than telling God our secrets in secret prayer

We know what to do each day for God because each day we have met secretly with God

1. **God rewards those who meet Him in secret prayer – expect God’s reward from secret prayer**

Secretly meeting with God the Father in prayer: quiets the mind, calms the emotions, & directs the desires

Secretly meeting with God the Father in prayer prepare us for public service for God

Secretly meeting with God the Father in prayer changes the world around us

**But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**