***The Sermon on the Mount***

**How to Pray, Part 1; Matthew 6:5-6**

**Practical Helps for Our 40 Days of Prayer**

* **Prayer and Relationship**
  + **Pray out of our love for God**
  + **Pray out of God’s love for us**
  + **So when we pray we speak directly to God as we would a parent or friend**
* **Prayer and Ministry**
  + **Pray out of our dependence on God**
  + **Pray out of our service for God**
  + **So when we pray we pray for God’s priorities for us and our world**
* **Prayer and Practice**
  + **Spontaneous and planned**
  + **Immediate need and prescribed lists**
  + **Individual and corporate**
  + **In all this, pray through the Scripture**

1. **Reminder: Structure of Matthew 6:1-18**
   * **Giving, Matthew 6:2-4; Praying, Matthew 6:5-15; Fasting, Matthew 6:16-18**
2. **Do not pray like this, Matthew 6:5**

* **Motivated by love of self**

1. **Pray like this, Matthew 6:6**

* **Motivated by love of God**
* **Hyperbole on giving: “Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing”**
  + **Meaning: Be extremely discrete about how you give money so that it is about meeting needs and bringing glory to God and not about impressing others**
* **Hyperbole on praying: “go into your inner room, close your door and pray”** 
  + **Meaning: Be extremely discrete about how you pray so that it is about your relationship to God and not about impressing others**
  + **There is eternal reward for the discipline of prayer**

***The Sermon on the Mount***

**How to Pray, Part 1; Matthew 6:5-6**

**Practical Helps for Our 40 Days of Prayer (Header Slide – Slide 1)**

* **Prayer and Relationship, Proverbs 15:8** 
  + **Read Proverbs 15:8 (Slide 2)**
  + **Pray out of our love for God**
  + **Pray out of God’s love for us**
  + **So when we pray we speak directly to God as we would a parent or friend**
  + Prayer is not an encounter with a spiritual ATM machine
  + God loves you and loves spending time with you
  + And, if you are a believer in Christ, we love Him
  + God’s love relationship with us and our love relationship with Him motivates God to delight in hearing us pray and motivates us in delighting in speaking to Him
* **Prayer and Ministry**
  + **Read Psalm 5:1-2 (Slide 3)**
  + **Pray out of our dependence on God**
  + **Pray out of our service for God**
  + **So when we pray we pray for God’s priorities for us and our world**
  + Christ Jesus gives us a good model in His prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, “Not My will but Yours.”
* **Prayer and Practice**
  + **Read Psalm 5:3 (Slide 4)**
  + **Spontaneous and planned**
  + Paul says to pray without ceasing, meaning that our hearts should always be communing with God and seeking His will throughout the day
  + Pray reminders – bracelets to remind us to continually pray
  + 12 hour prayer vigil next Sunday
  + **Immediate need and prescribed lists**
  + During the 12 hour prayer vigil we will provide a prayer needs list
  + However, you will come with your own set of prayer needs
  + **Individual and corporate**
  + In home prayer times and scheduled prayer times here at the church
  + Tonight, we will pray over students and teachers at 7:00 in this room
  + **Read Acts 1:14 (Slide 5)**
  + **Read Acts 2:42-43 (Slide 6)**
  + **Read Acts 12:4-5 (Slide 7)**
  + Not just for the early church and her expansions, but for all of us
  + **Read Colossians 4:2-4 (Slide 8)**
  + **In all this, pray through the Scripture**
  + Book, prayer lists in the back cover, praying with the Word of God on our mind

**Scripture Reading and Prayer**

* **Every week, just like for the Beatitudes we are going to read these 11 verses together for the six Sunday’s of this section in hopes of helping us memorize**
* **Read Matthew 6:5-15 (Slides)**

**Exposition Matt. 6:5-6 (Slide 1 – Header Slide)**

1. **This passage of spiritual disciplines**
   * From last week, Kim was going to convene the deacons to bring me up on heresy charges from last week’s sermon – no caffeine in heaven
   * Spilled an entire Sonic Java Chiller in my lap this week
   * We are exploring the Sermon on the Mount and in particular the six chapter which contains much information about spiritual disciplines
   * **Read Matthew 6:1 (Slide 2)**
   * There is a reward that comes from God to believers who practice these spiritual disciplines with right attitude and focus
   * **Reminder of the structure (Slide 3)**
     + **Giving to the Poor, Matthew 6:2-4**
     + **Praying, Matthew 6:5-15**
     + **Fasting, Matthew 6:16-18**
   * This entire text, Matthew 6:1-18 concerns the three major spiritual disciplines of giving, praying and fasting
   * These three we should do, however, we must practice these disciplines with great care for fear that these spiritual disciplines might become about us and not God
   * **Read Matthew 6:5 (Slide 4)**
   * “When you pray…”
   * The Assumption from this statement is that you and I will pray
   * But there is a word of caution, when Jesus sees the religious leaders of the day, He observes some very bad habits in reference to their use of spiritual disciplines
   * When they give, they make a big deal of it
   * When they pray, they make a big deal of it
   * So giving, praying and fasting had fallen on hard times, they had become a means to impress the neighbors
   * Today, we might try and impress the neighbors with a new car or our kids grades
   * In Jesus’ day, they tried to impress with very public displays of their devotion to God and in doing so and made a mockery of these spiritual disciplines
   * One of the features of prayer should reflect our dependence upon God
   * However, in the life of the Pharisee, their self-dependence was continually reflected in their prayers
   * Remember the two prayers – the Pharisee and the tax-collector
   * That parable gives us some insight into the types of prayers that might have been uttered by the Pharisees on the street corners
   * “They have their reward in full.” What reward were they seeking? “Personal glory.”
   * Jesus says the reward has already been paid because they received what they sought
   * Instead, Jesus gives us an alternative to Pharisaical prayers
2. **Instead, pray like this, Matthew 6:6**
   * **Read Matthew 6:6 (Slide 5)**
   * **Motivated by love of God**
   * Public prayer, community prayer
   * Jesus prayed out loud in several situations
   * The church prayed together as we saw back in the Scripture reading section
   * This is not a refuting of all public prayers otherwise we are sinning as a church to gather together to pray

* **Hyperbole on giving: “Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing”**
  + **Meaning: Be extremely discrete about how you give money so that it is about meeting needs and bringing glory to God and not about impressing others**
* **Hyperbole on praying: “go into your inner room, close your door and pray”** 
  + **Meaning: Be extremely discrete about how you pray so that it is about your relationship to God and not about impressing others**
  + **There is eternal reward for the discipline of prayer**

1. **Practical conclusions (Header slide – slide 6)**
   * Allow the next 40 days to change our prayer patterns in our families
   * Allow the next 40 days to change our living patterns to be more kingdom oriented

Announcements:

1. Reading seminar at 5:00 on Pursuit of Holiness, Jerry Bridges
2. Romans 13 study tonight.
3. Newcomers’ fellowship tonight, August 22.
4. Prayer focus – 40 days of prayer begins today, August 22.
5. Prayer time at 7:00 tonight for students and teachers as school starts back.
6. Discipleship in the fall starts tonight for most courses.