

And When You Pray > Matthew 6:5-8

6:5-6 *Pray for the Father's sight, not people's.* Before Jesus outlines what our praying should consist of, he addresses our heart and motivations. Do we pray to look spiritual and religious? Is prayer simply a rote practice? Or, do we see it as we should: as communicating with our Father?

6:7-8 *Pray for the Father's ears, not people's.* When we pray, are we praying out of a trust in our God, in the one whom Jesus has given us a right relationship with? Or do we think we need to use certain words or repeat ideas in order to get “what we want”?

Background: The Lord's Prayer comes in the middle of what has been called the “Sermon on the Mount.” This is a sermon where Jesus describes how the people of his kingdom will be blessed, and what life as a “kingdom person” looks like – both eternally and in the present.

The Point: God's people are called to pray in a way that distinctively reflects the gospel which has given us right relationship with him.

Head: Know why you are praying. Understand that prayer is part of our relationship with God.

Heart: Believe that when you pray to the Father, he hears and cares for you.

Hands: How does your praying need to change to be focused on the Lord instead of attracting the admiration of others?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
