

JESUS ON PRAYER
JUNE 5, 2019

MATTHEW 6:5-13

Who better to study than Jesus on the subject of prayer? While on earth, He taught much on the subject of prayer. He also said the Father always heard and answered His prayers.

1. How not to pray.

- A. V5** – Those who only pray publicly to be seen of men have the reward of men.
- B. V7** – Don't use vain repetitions as heathens do. "Pious Antonine, the gods preserve thee." Gentle Antonine, the gods preserve thee." These statements would be prayed from morning till noon.

2. How to pray. V6

- A.** Enter your solitary place. Every Jewish house had a place for secret devotion. The roofs of their houses were flat places for walking, and conversation in the cool of the evening. Above the porch was a small room designated for solitude and secrecy where one would offer his prayers to God privately. Remember the upper room? **ACTS 1:13-14**

3. Jesus doesn't specify when or how often prayer should be made.

A. Some possible reasons:

- Prayer should be voluntary, not mandatory.
- Regulating prayer would make Christianity legalistic. Muslims are required to pray five times a day.

B. Some considerations.

- In the morning. **PSALMS 5:1-3**, David did. **MARK 1:35** Jesus did. As we face the duties and dangers of another day, what can be more appropriate than to commit ourselves to the one who preserved us through the night.
- In the evening, before retiring for the night. What can be more appropriate than to commend ourselves to the one who neither slumbers nor sleeps? **PSALMS 121**
- When facing difficulties. **2 CHRONICLES 20:12**
- When tempted. **HEBREWS 5:7-8 (NLT)**
- When prompted by the Spirit. **ROMANS 8:14**
- Always. **LUKE 18:1**

4. What to pray. The Lord's prayer is a model prayer. In it Jesus expresses the substance of our petitions, to specify what petitions are proper to present to God. There's no evidence that Jesus or His Disciples used this exact form of prayer.

- A. V9** – Principle of praise. We acknowledge the Father of lights and venerate His name, esteeming it as being holy.
- B. V10** – Principle of putting God first and establishing His will. Kingdom means reign. Until His reign fully comes, may His will be done on earth, as in Heaven.
- C. V11** – Principle of daily dependence and provision. Everything we need to sustain life comes from Him.
- D. V12** – Principle of forgiveness. It's not praying the prayer that's required, it's practicing what is taught. If we don't forgive, we won't be forgiven.
- E. V13** – Principle of deliverance from temptation, trials and tests. Help us avert and overcome every evil. The prayer ends as it began, with praise to God for the reign of His Kingdom, power and glory.