

Talk to Me

LEARNING TO PRAY LIKE JESUS



SERMON NOTES

Talk to Me: Sermon Notes

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WHEN YOU PRAY

DEFINITION OF PRAYER

a personal, communicative response to the knowledge of God

Tim Keller, *Prayer*, 45

Do you pray more for the praise of man or because of the love of God?

⁵And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

⁷And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Matthew 6:5–8

WHY DO YOU PRAY?

WHO DO YOU WANT TO SEE YOU? (v. 5–6)

⁵And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

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Matthew 6:5–6

WHAT DOES JESUS ASSUME?

- “When you pray . . .”—That we’re praying!

CONTEXT

- Places of Prayer
 - Synagogues
 - Street Corners
- Times of Prayer
- Posture of Prayer
- Motive of Prayer

- These people prayed not to be seen by God, but to be seen and praised by others as righteous.

The person who prays more in public than in private reveals that he is less interested in God's approval than in human praise.

D. A. Carson, *Jesus' Sermon on the Mount*, 199

WHY DO WE PRAY?

- To be seen by your Father

The motivation of private prayer is the intimacy of communion with God in our heart, which is at the center of all prayer, whether it happens to be given publicly or privately.

Michael Wilkins, *Matthew*, 289

WHO DO YOU WANT TO HEAR YOU? (V. 7–8)

⁷And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Matthew 6:7–8

WHAT DOES JESUS ASSUME?

- “When you pray . . .”—That we’re praying!

CONTEXT

- Manipulation of Prayer

- “Heap up empty phrases”

- Babbling – endless repetition, virtually meaningless gibberish

²⁶And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made.

1 Kings 18:26

³⁴But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

Acts 19:34

- Motive of Prayer

- Distrust of God—Because they didn’t trust God, they felt like they had to plead with him
- Praise of People—They wanted others around them to hear them pray

WHY DO WE PRAY?

- God's love for us
 - God reveals himself to us
 - God hears us

*¹⁶But I call to God,
and the LORD will save me.
¹⁷Evening and morning and at noon
I utter my complaint and moan,
and he hears my voice.*

Psalm 55:16–17

¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

1 John 5:14–15

- God answers us

¹⁹For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you.

Isaiah 30:19

⁹And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Luke 11:9–13

- Our love for God
 - We humbly seek God
 - We confidently trust God
 - We joyfully experience God

CLOSING

- Are you praying?
- Who are you praying to?
- Do you pray more for the praise of man or because of the love of God?