

MATTHEW 21:13(NKJV) “My house shall be called a house of prayer

- *Prophetic demonstration of tables and chairs being overturned*

Introduction

- I wonder how different our lives would be if we prayed exactly the way God wants us to pray as taught by Jesus in Matthew 6?
- In this sermon series, we're going to be looking at the following aspects of this amazing discipline called prayer:

1. Biblical truths about prayer
2. Fallacies and misconceptions about prayer
3. Jesus' model prayer
4. Personal and practical implementation for daily prayer
5. Specific types of prayer
6. Hinderances to effective prayer
7. Personal vs corporate prayer

- **Every single Christian goal and objective can only ever be achieved through prayer.**
- What are these basic Christian objectives?
- They are: **Loving God, loving people**

MATTHEW 22:36-40(NKJV) 36“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said to him, “You shall **love the Lord your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all you mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: “You shall **love your neighbour** as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

- Our hearts need to be broken with the things that break God's heart, in order for our prayers to be pleasing in His eyes. Otherwise, we'll **pray amiss or pray selfishly**
- **It's from broken and repentant hearts like these, that the purest and holiest of intercession flows, as the Holy Spirit prays through us**

PSALM 34:18(NKJV) The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.

(NLTSE) The Lord is close to the brokenhearted, He rescues those whose spirits are crushed

PSALM 51:17(NKJV) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart, these, O God, You will not despise

(NLTSE) The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God

ROMANS 8:26(NLTSE) And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words

- What does it mean to pray amiss? It's when we pray with motives in our hearts that are not in harmony with the motives of God's heart, or:

- It's when we pray and ask for things that God does not want for our lives

EZEKIEL 14:4(NKJV) “Therefore speak to them, and say to them, “Thus says the Lord God: ‘Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the Lord will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols

(NLTSE) Tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: The people of Israel have set up idols in their hearts and fallen into sin, and then they go to a prophet asking for a message. So I, the Lord, will give them the kind of answer their great idolatry deserves

JAMES 4:3(NLTSE) And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong, you want only what will give you pleasure

- If we just simply live out the two great commandments in our lives, all personal and indeed all global difficulties will be resolved
- The most effective way to live out these great commandments, is through prayer
- When we pray like Jesus taught us, our hearts will change towards God and towards others:

Love from and for God

ROMANS 5:5(NKJV) Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us

(NLTSE) And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love

Love for one another

ROMANS 12:9-16(NKJV) 9 “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion”

Love for the lost

MATTHEW 9:36(NKJV) But when He saw the multitudes, He was ***moved with compassion*** for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd

MATTHEW 14:14(NKJV) And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and ***healed their sick***

MARK 6:34(NKJV) And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to ***teach them*** many things.

- God loves our Spirit led prayers:

PROVERBS 15:8(NKJV) The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but ***the prayer of the upright is His delight***

REVELATION 5:8(NKJV) Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

- Our Lord God and saviour, Jesus Christ, the greatest prayer warrior and greatest intercessor of all time, is praying for us right now!

HEBREWS 7:25(NLTSE) Therefore He is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through Him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Share with your care group, what you think the phrase “a prayer life” means
2. Discuss what you think the term: “*idols in his heart*” could mean (see **EZEKIEL 14:4**)
3. When was the last time you sensed you heard or saw God’s answer to your prayers?
4. What was it that you feel God told you or showed you and how did you respond to God’s guidance or instruction?