

The Sermon On The Mount

The Righteousness of Those
Whose Live's Are Ruled By God - 5:17-7:12

Matthew 6:5-15

The Godward Life & Prayer

"Pride Corrupts Acts of Worship"

The Sermon On The Mount

Chapter 5 - The Kingdom Citizen's



- * **Character: (5:3-12)**
- * **Influence upon the world: (5:13-16)**
- * **Righteousness *MUST EXCEED* the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees: (5:17-20)**
- * **Dealings with others: (5:21-48)**

The Sermon On The Mount

3

Chapter 6 - One's Standing Before God



*Jesus strikes at the
heart of hypocrisy -
Pride & Worldliness!*

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Chapter 6 - One's Standing Before God



Three Areas of Religious Piety:

Benevolence – Man-ward

Prayer – God-ward

Fasting – self-ward

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Chapter 6 - One's Standing Before God



True righteousness & piety rest not upon our relationship with people and things - but our relationship with God!

The "first" commandment is essential to the "second" - (Mark 12:29-31)

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Chapter 6 - One's Standing Before God

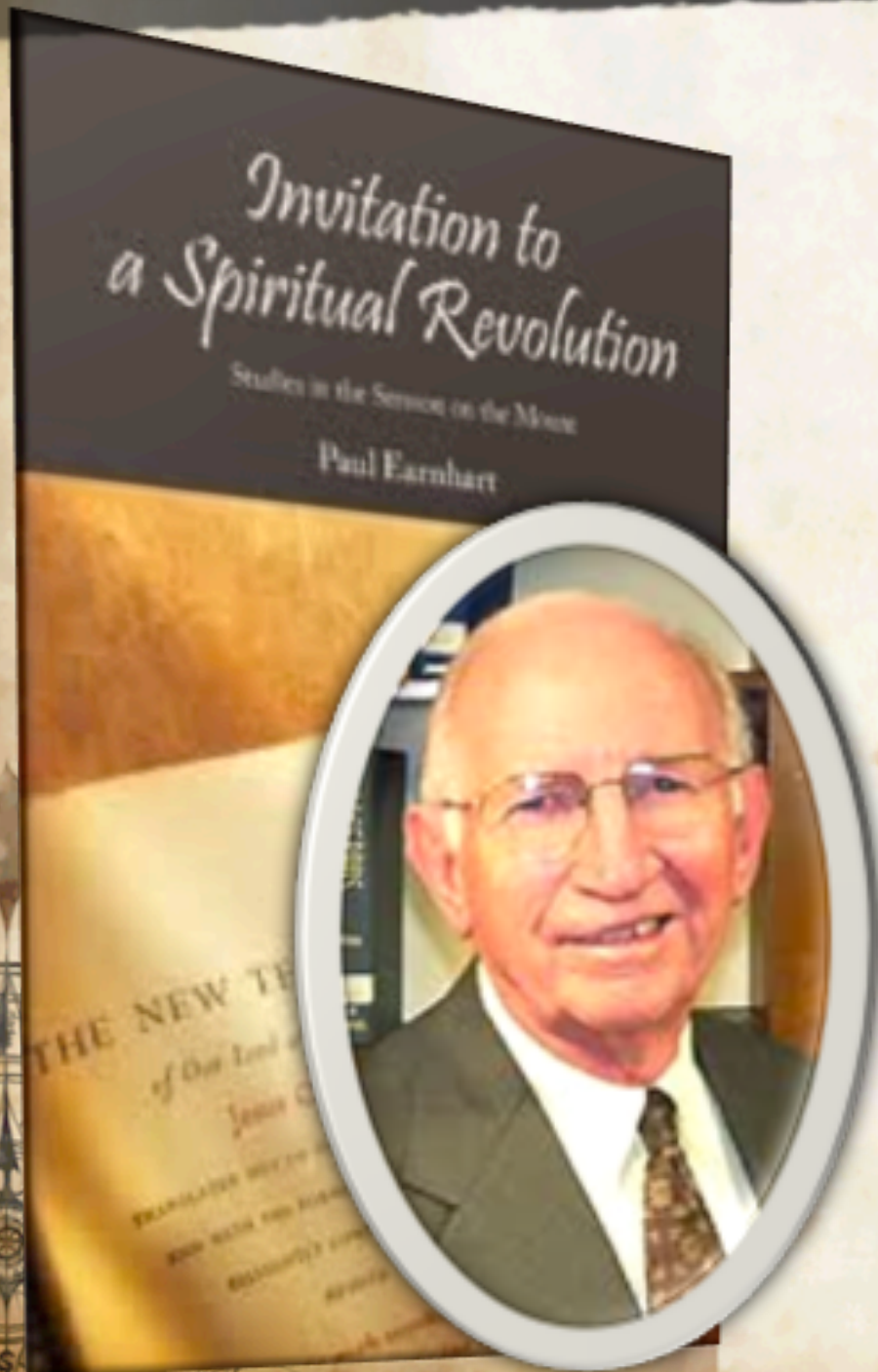


- ✳ **True righteousness & piety reaches to heart depth -** (Deut 10:12; 30:6; Mat 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31; Rom 2:29; Eph 6:6)
- ✳ **True righteousness & piety has the right motive & attitude - NOT merely right words and deeds! -** (1 Tim 1:5; 1 Thes 4:1; Eph 4:1-3; Col. 1:9-12)

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7

Chapter 6 - One's Standing Before God



“Mere worship and generosity do not give a man sure refuge from evil. Satan will follow right into the place of prayer and turn his very worship into sin. A man must keep his heart pure and his love true. God must be the object of everything!”

[Paul Earnhart, Invitation To A spiritual Revolution; page 71]

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Matthew 6:5-15 (NKJV)

⁵ "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ⁶ But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

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9

Matthew 6:5-15 (NKJV)

⁷ And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. ⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

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Matthew 6:5-15 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this
day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our
debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And
do not lead us into temptation, But
deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is
the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever. Amen.

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Matthew 6:5-15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

The Sermon On The Mount

The Godward Life & Prayer - "Pride Corrupts Acts of Worship"



- ✳ **Jesus condemns ALL hypocritical acts of righteousness! (2,5,6,16)**
- ✳ **If, in the innermost being of our heart, we do not mean to please and glorify God, HE WILL NOT REWARD us!**
- ✳ **The end does not justify the means OR THE MOTIVE!**

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Jesus condemns hypocritical prayer - 5

◆ **"And when you pray" . . . (5,6,7)**

✱ As with acts of charity - the issue is NOT IF you pray, but WHEN YOU PRAY –

✱ True righteousness and prayer are inseparable.

✱ Whenever . . . (Every Time)

✱ Must be from proper motives & in compliance with certain principles.



Praise

Thanksgiving

Forgiveness

Petitions

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Jesus condemns hypocritical prayer - 5

◆ Principles governing acceptable prayer:

- * Sincerity - Mat 6:6
- * Godly motives - James 4:3
- * From faith - James 1:6
- * Righteous living - Jn 9:31; Jam 5:16; 1 Pet 3:10-12
- * According to God's will - 1 John 5:14
- * With diligence - Luke 18:1; Rom 12:12; 1 Thes 5:17
- * With thanksgiving - Phil 4:6; Col. 4:2



Praise

Thanksgiving

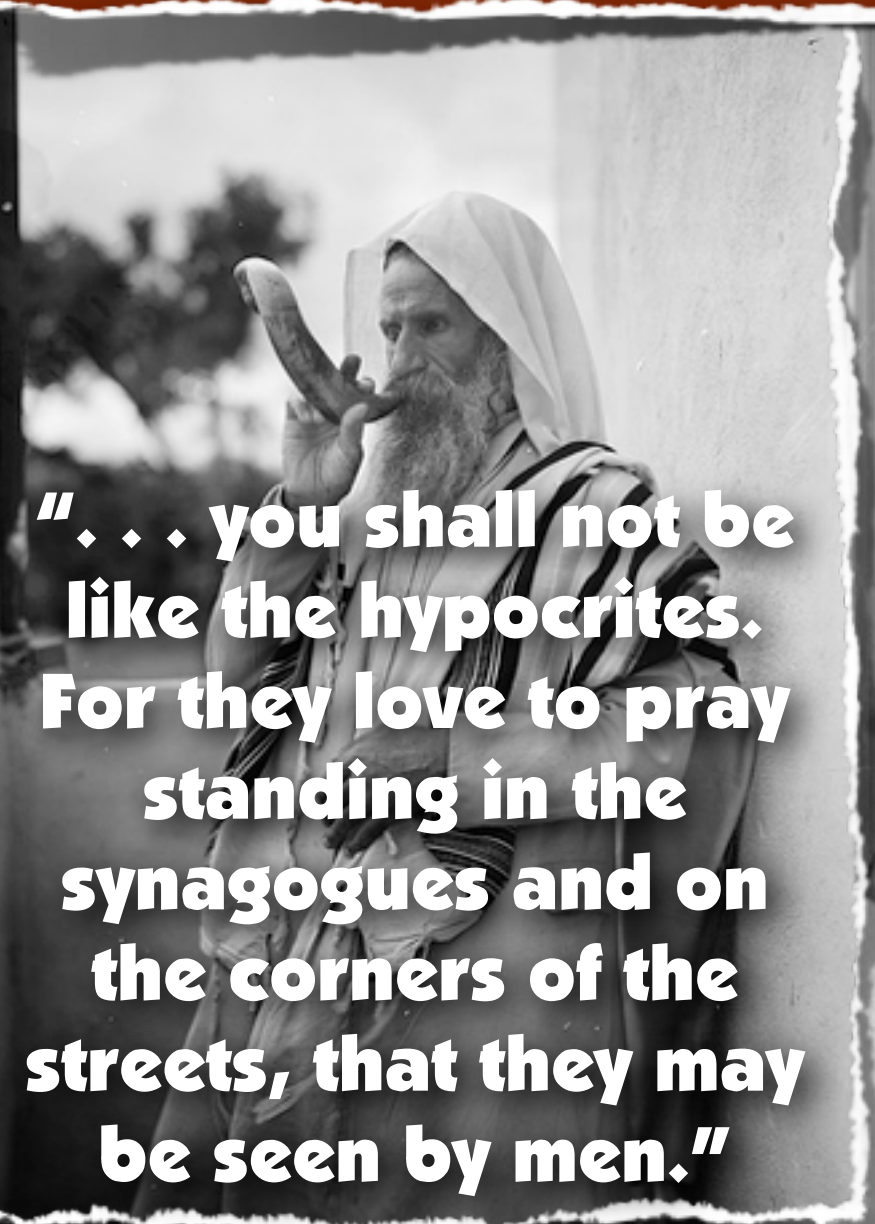
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Jesus condemns hypocritical prayer - 5

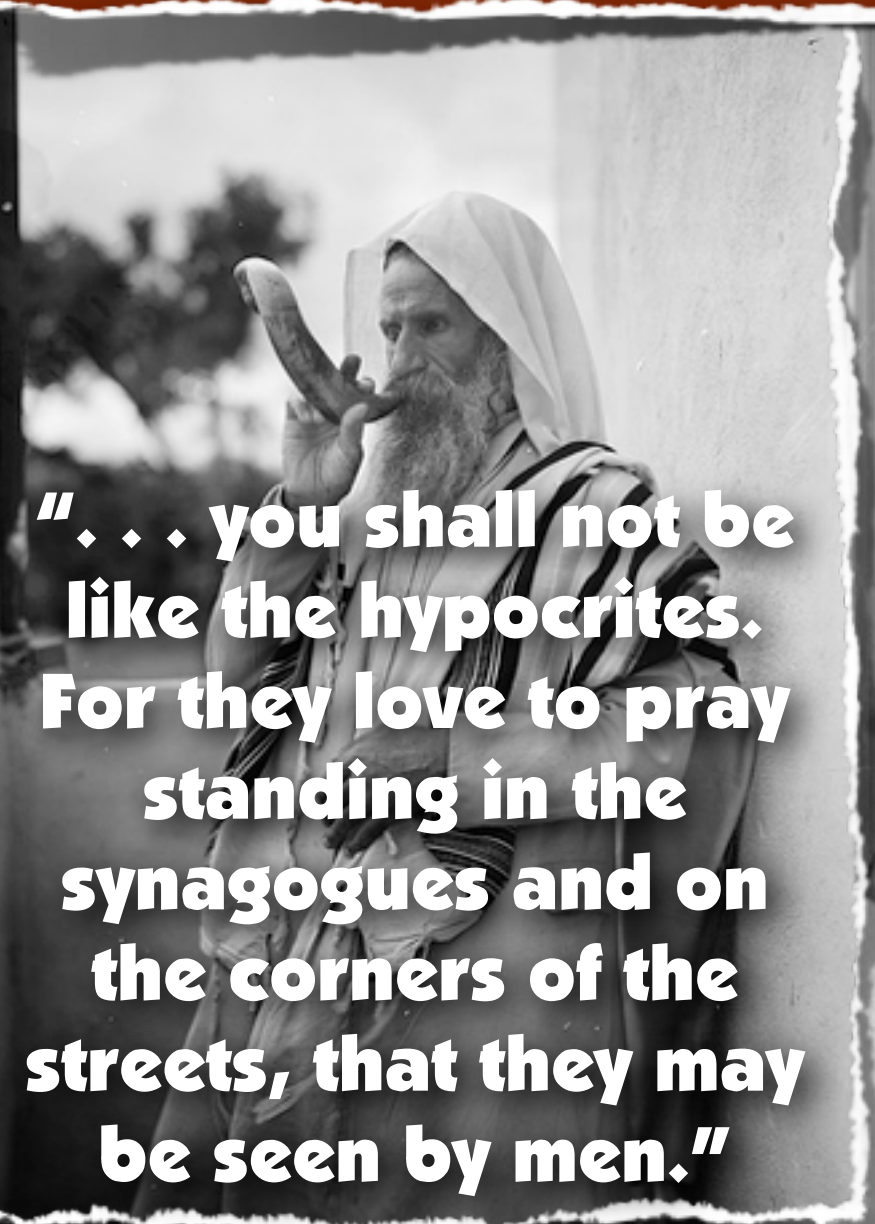


- ◆ **For they love to pray** - *"standing in the synagogues & on the corners of the streets that they may be seen of men"*
- ✳ The issue was NOT their actual body position - (*Standing* - Luke 18:13; *Prostrate* position - Mat 26:39; *Kneeling* - Acts 21:5; Dan 6:10; *Sitting* - 2 Sam. 7:18).
- ✳ Or their physical location - (*in the synagogues and streets*), But motive!

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Jesus condemns hypocritical prayer - 5



- ◆ **For they love to pray** - *"standing in the synagogues & on the corners of the streets that they may be seen of men"*
- ✳ They used prayer as an instrument of self-elevation – A means of establishing a cheap reputation for piety.
- ✳ That others may love them as they loved themselves – Gave them occasion to put their [fake] "piety" on parade.

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Jesus condemns hypocritical prayer - 5

Jesus Condemns Both

The spirit that seeks praise from
others OR self!

**The spirit
which seeks
publicity**

**The spirit of
self-
righteousness**

Matthew 23:5-12

Luke 18:9-14



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Jesus condemns hypocritical prayer - 5



*Distinction is in
The Motive!*

**"... you have no
reward from your
Father in
heaven ...**

**Assuredly, I say
to you, they have
their reward.**

(2,5,16)



Charity - 2-4



Praying - 5



Fasting - 16

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The Godward Life & Prayer - "Pride Corrupts Acts of Worship"

Jesus commands sincerity in prayer - 6



Matthew 6:6

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

◆ **But you, when you pray -**

- ✳ Private devotions are NOT to be publicized - Jesus' concern and focus is not "location" or even "privacy" - but the attitude and motives underlying our acts of devotion.
- ✳ Our acts of devotion must be for the purpose of being seen, i.e., recognized by God - NOT men!

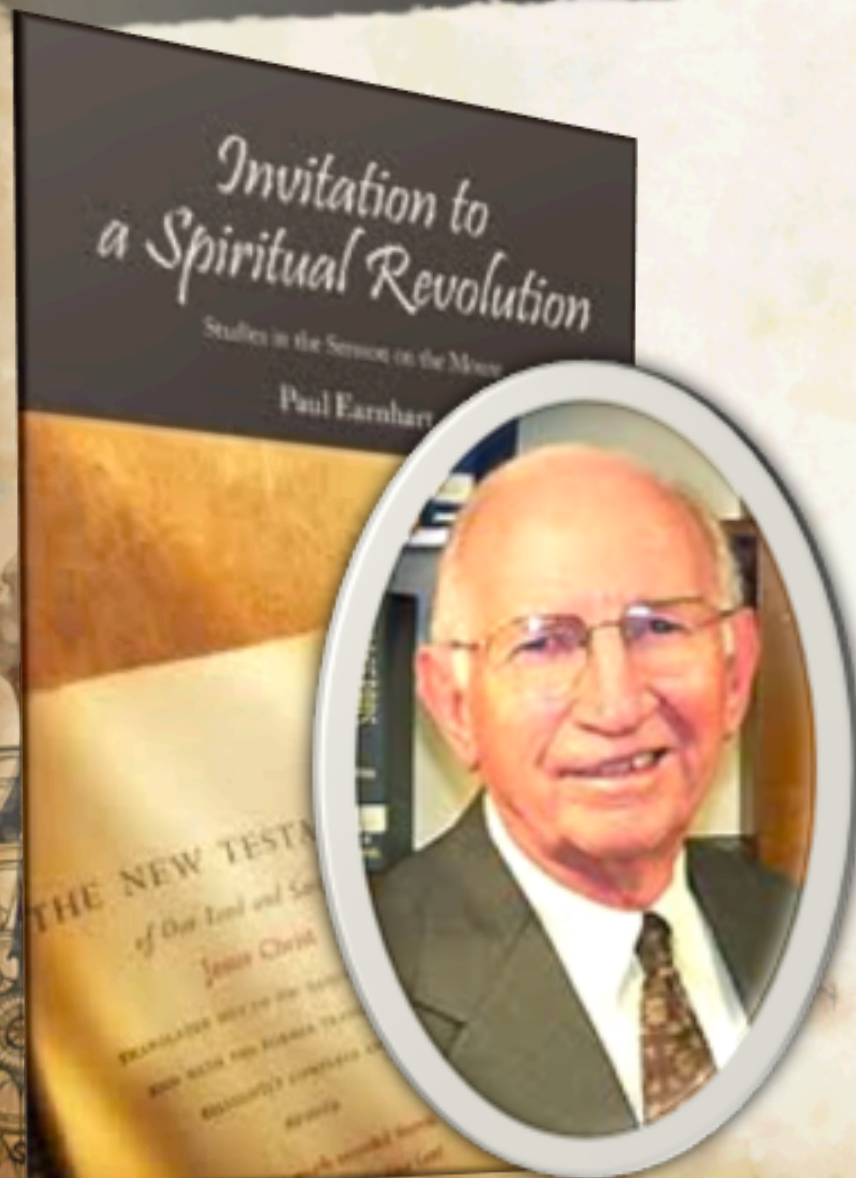
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Jesus commands sincerity in prayer - 6

"He, [Jesus], is wrestling here with a private, personal inner attitude and not with the forms of collective worship. Our attitude toward God is far more revealed by solitary devotions than by public ones "

[Paul Earnhart, Invitation To A spiritual Revolution; page 77]



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But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

- ◆ **Go into your room, and when you have shut the door . . .**
- ✳ The issue is not who sees or who knows - but whom you desire to see your acts of devotion and who you desire to know about them.
- ✳ Not forbidding public prayer -

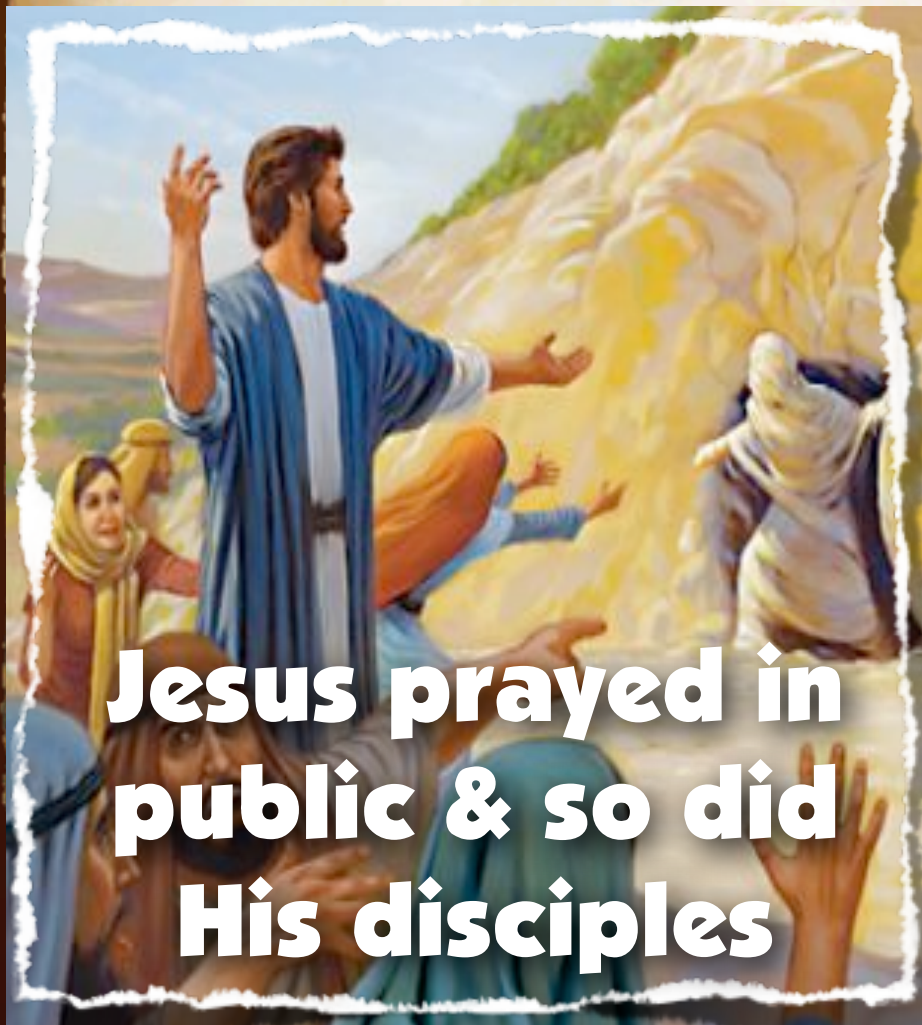
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Jesus commands sincerity in prayer - 6

John 11:41-42 (NKJV)

⁴¹ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."

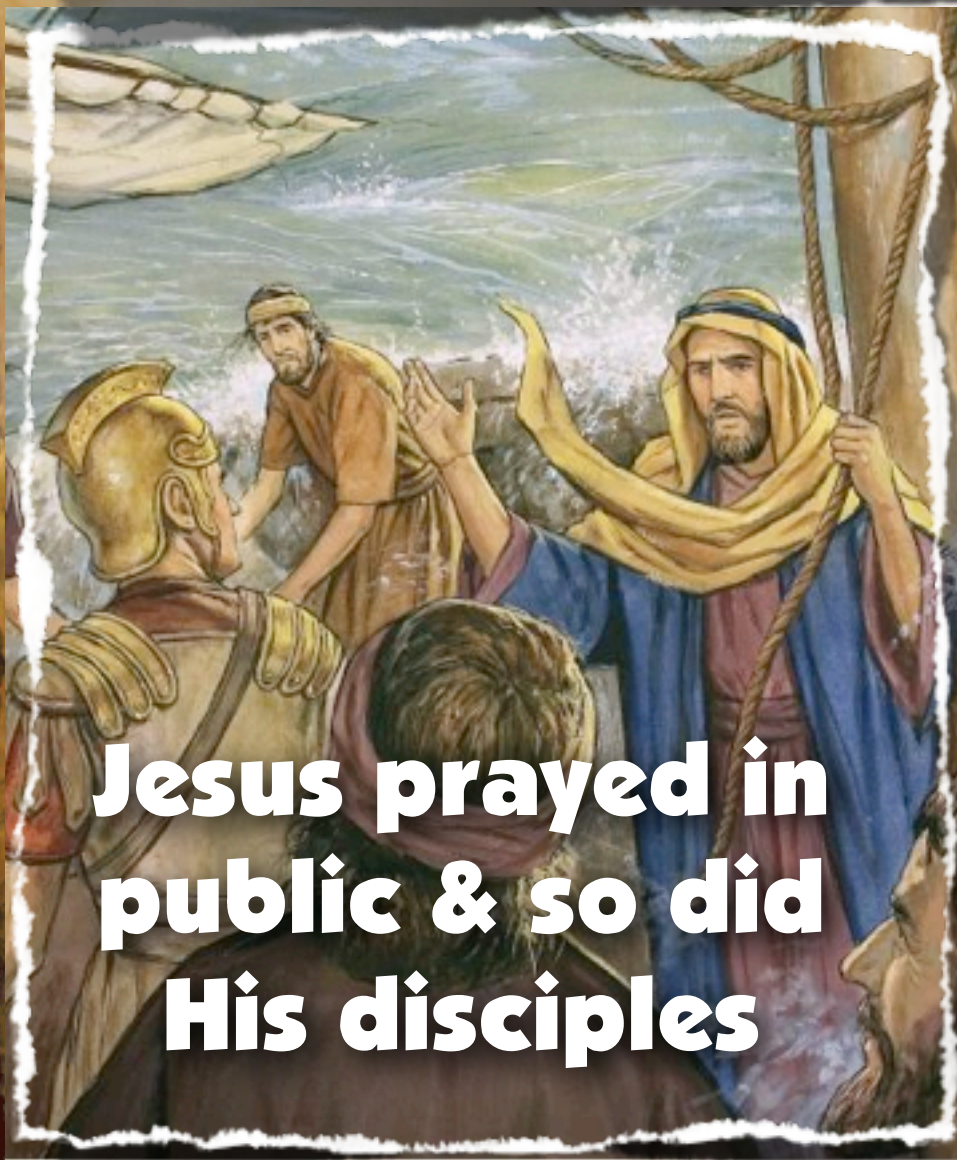


**Jesus prayed in
public & so did
His disciples**

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Jesus commands sincerity in prayer - 6



**Jesus prayed in
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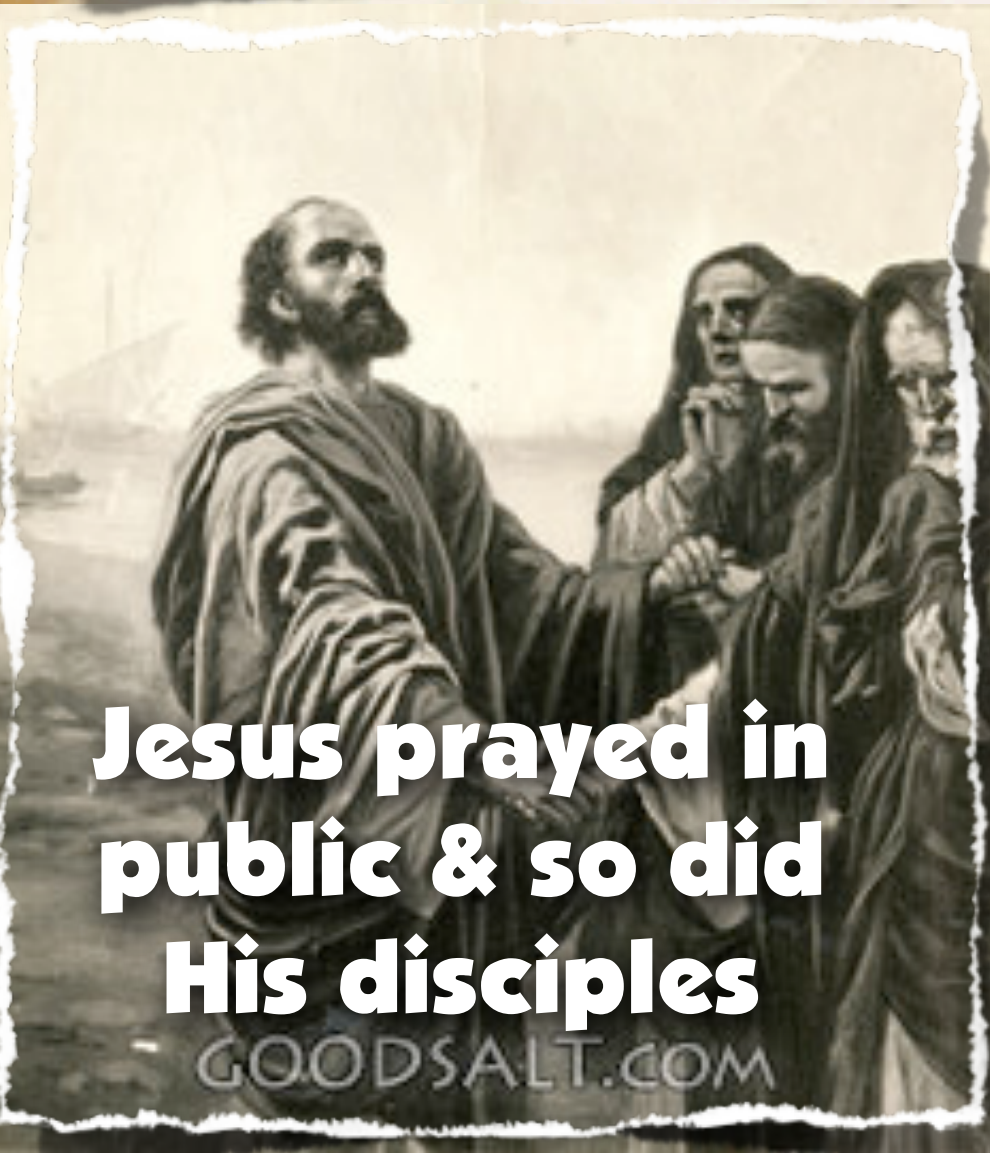
Acts 27:35 (NKJV)

And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it he began to eat.

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Jesus commands sincerity in prayer - 6



**Jesus prayed in
public & so did
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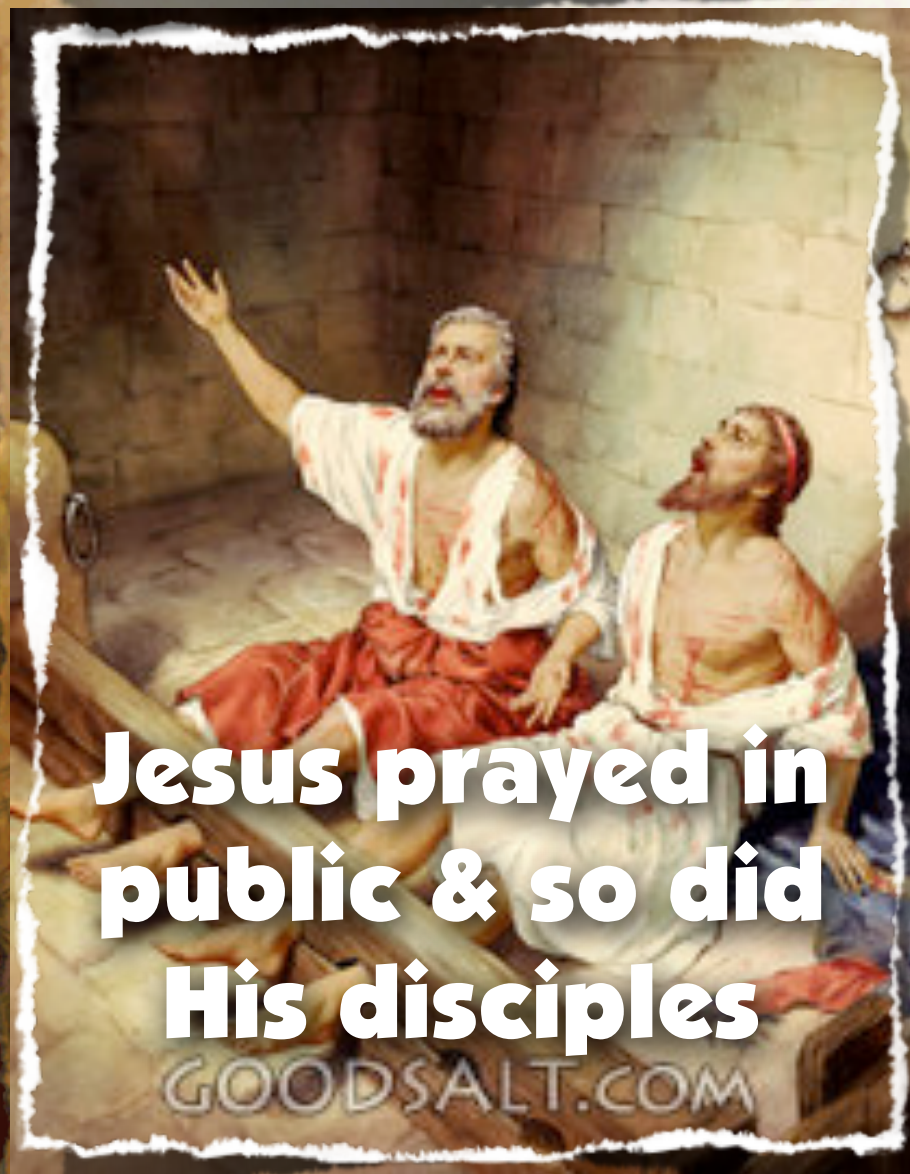
Acts 20:36 (NKJV)

And when he had said
these things, he knelt
down and prayed with
them all.

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Jesus commands sincerity in prayer - 6



**Jesus prayed in
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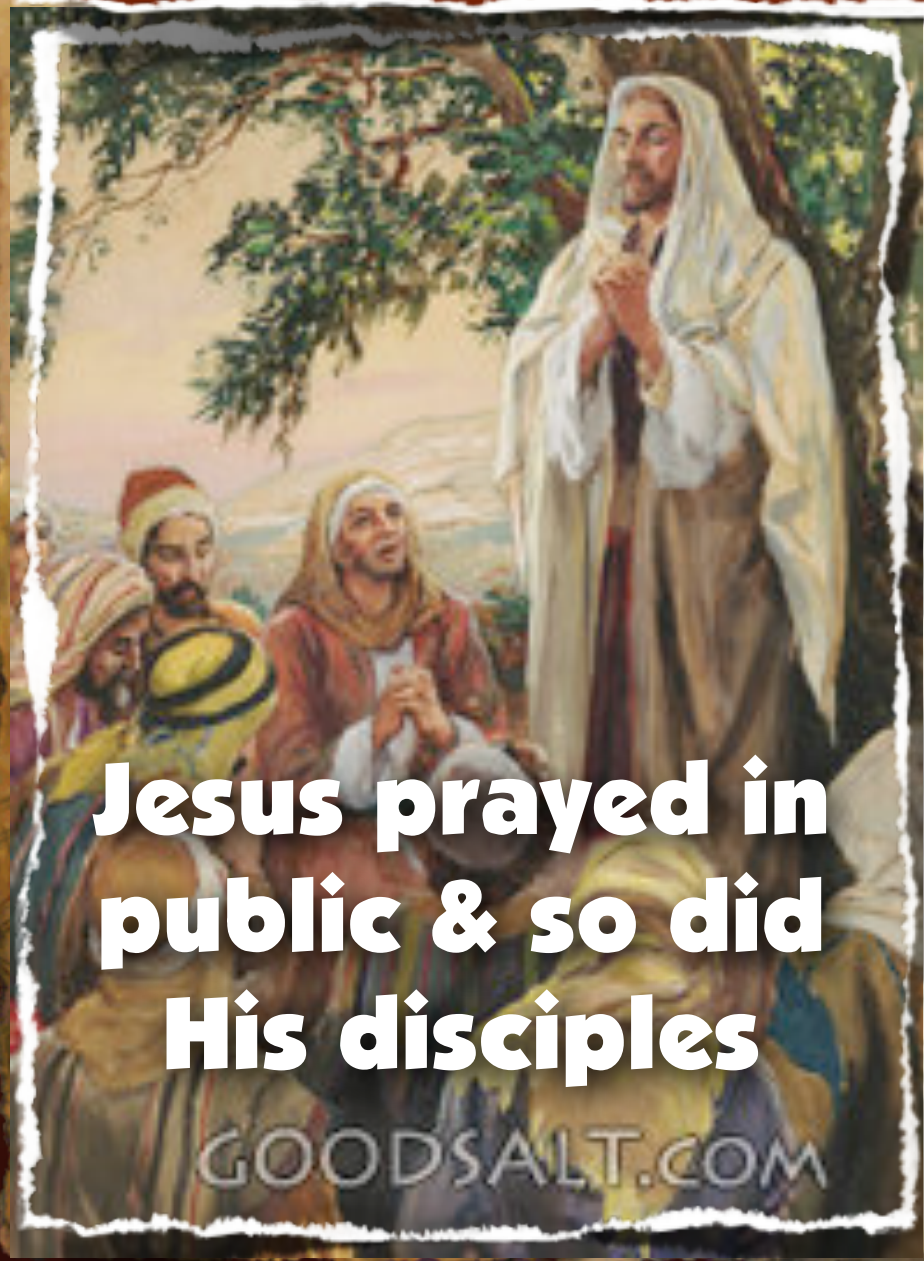
Acts 16:25 (NKJV)

But at midnight Paul and
Silas were praying and
singing hymns to God,
and the prisoners were
listening to them.

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Jesus commands sincerity in prayer - 6



Acts 4:31 And when **they had prayed**, the place where they were **assembled together** was shaken;

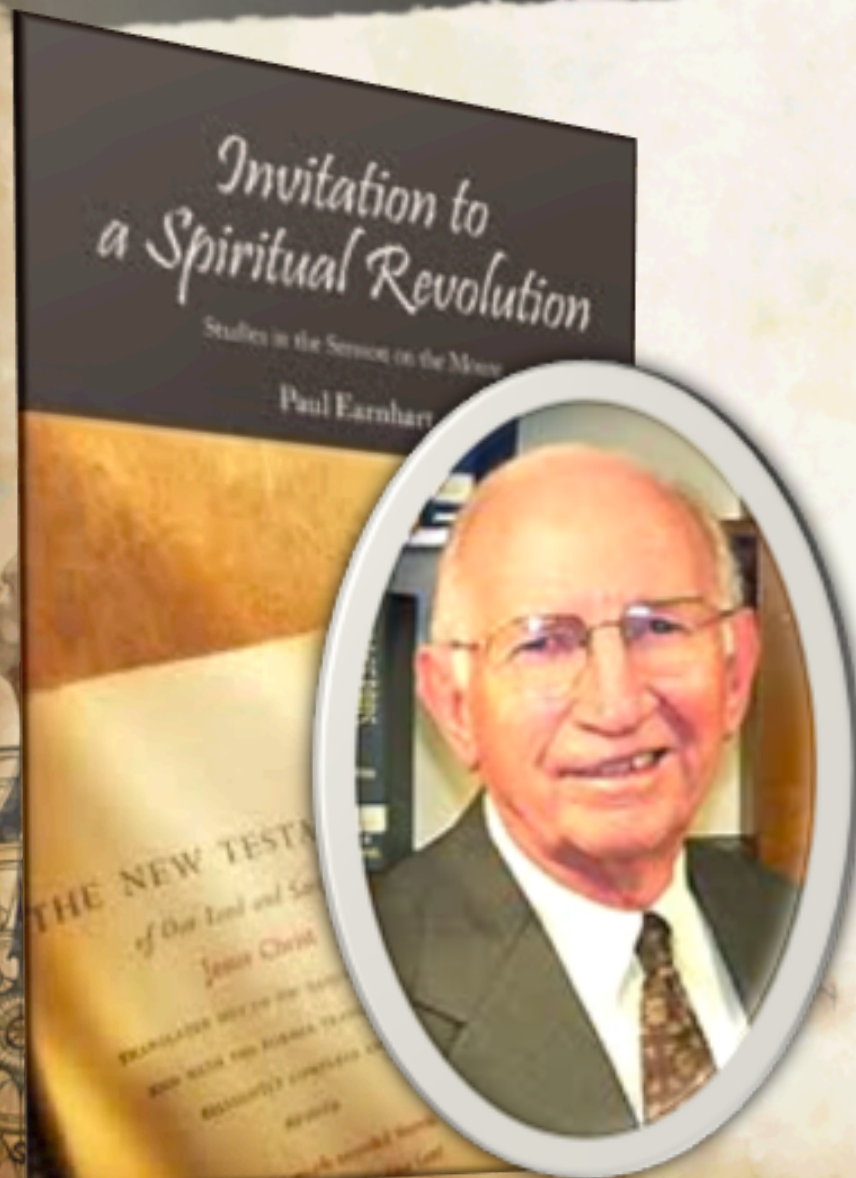
Acts 12:5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but **constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church**. 12 So, when he had considered *this*, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where **many were gathered together praying**.

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Jesus commands sincerity in prayer - 6

"He [Jesus] is not simply urging His disciples to be diligent in private petitions. He is certainly not merely appealing to them to find a place to speak with God where there were minimal distractions of sight and sound"
[Paul Earnhart, Invitation To A spiritual Revolution; page 77]



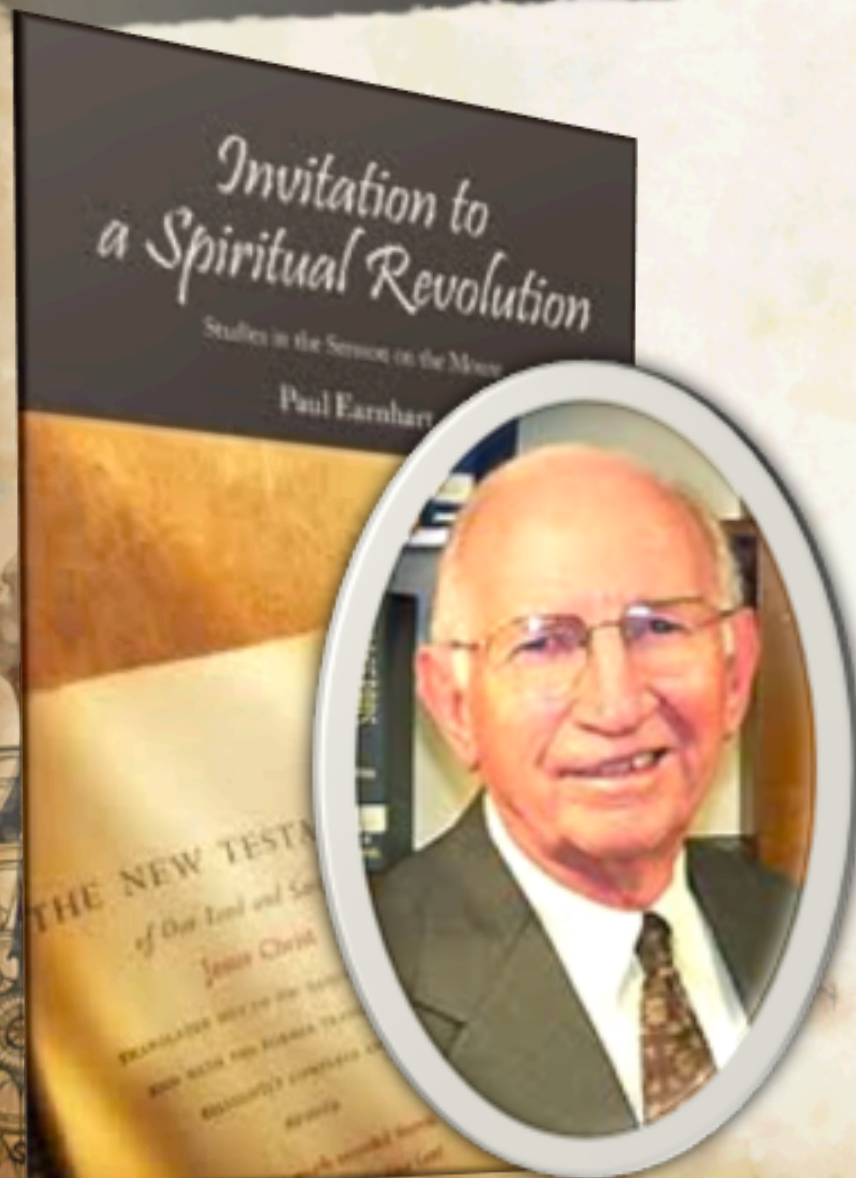
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"The 'closet' or 'inner room' in this passage is wholly figurative. The greatest distraction to true converse with God is not noise or other people but the human ego . . . there is no physical hideaway that can secure us against pride."

[Paul Earnhart, Invitation To A spiritual Revolution; page 77,78]



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The Godward Life & Prayer - "Pride Corrupts Acts of Worship"

Jesus commands sincerity in prayer - 6



Matthew 6:6

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

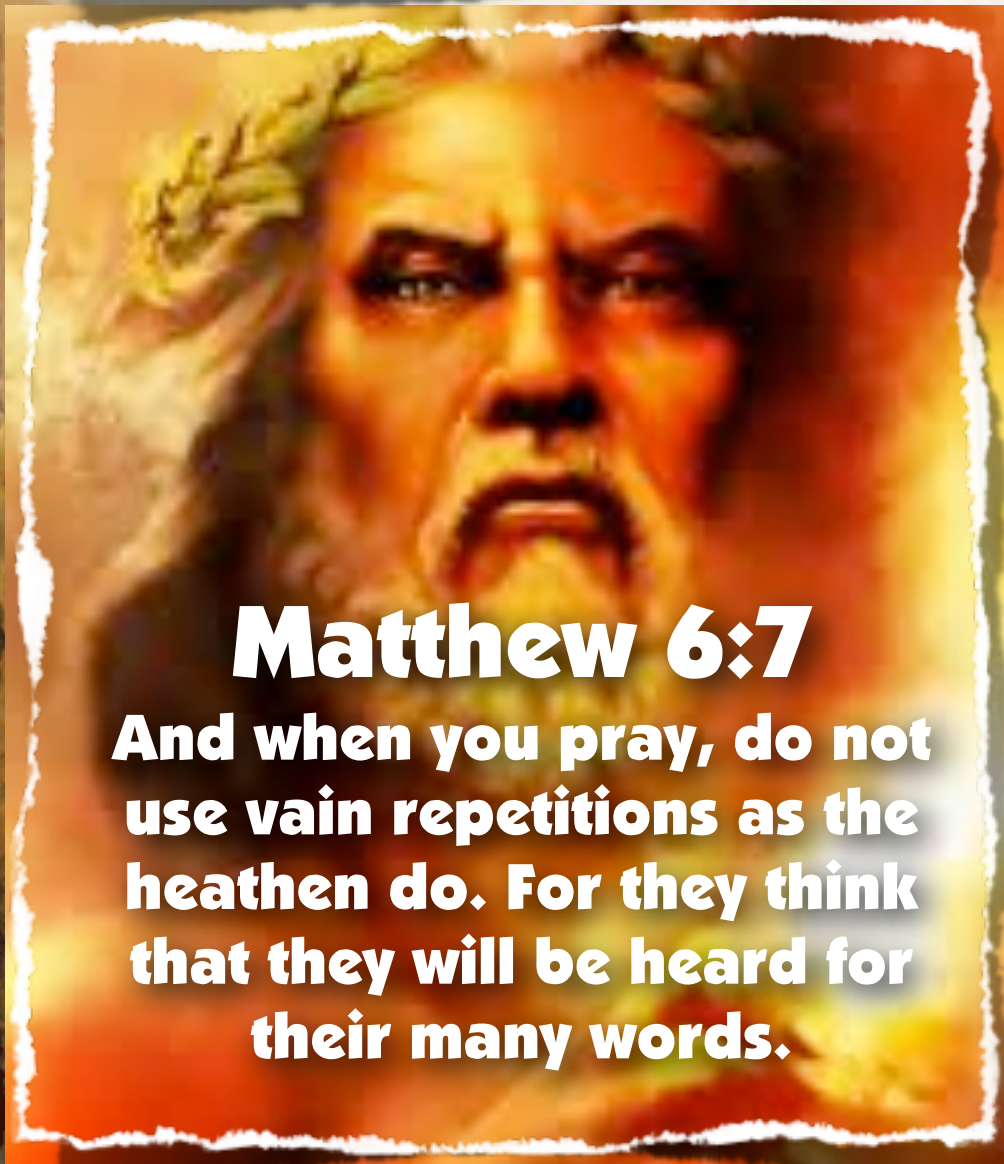
◆ **Pray with the sincere desire to honor and please God -**

- ✳ Pray always - 1 Thes 5:17
- ✳ Pray everywhere - 1 Tim 2:8
- ✳ Pray when assembled, or alone, - in a restaurant, or in your car - but make sure your heart is genuine and your motives pure!

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The Godward Life & Prayer - "Pride Corrupts Acts of Worship"

Don't Imitate The Pagan's - 7



Matthew 6:7

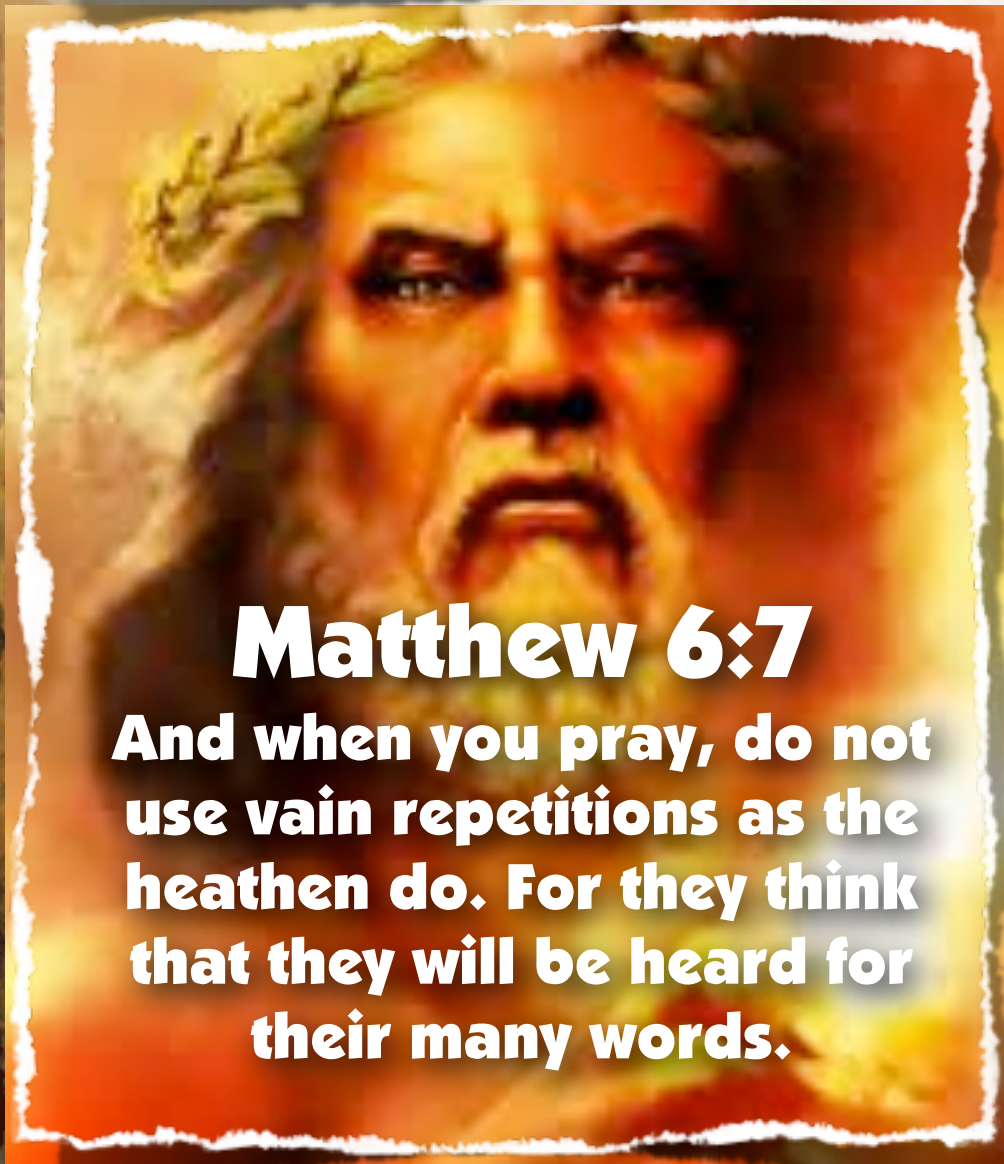
And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

- ◆ **The Pagans used "Vain Repetitions"**
- ◆ **Due to the "nature" of the pagan gods.**
 - ✱ Morally indifferent
 - ✱ Capricious & unpredictable
 - ✱ Largely unconcerned with the affairs of men

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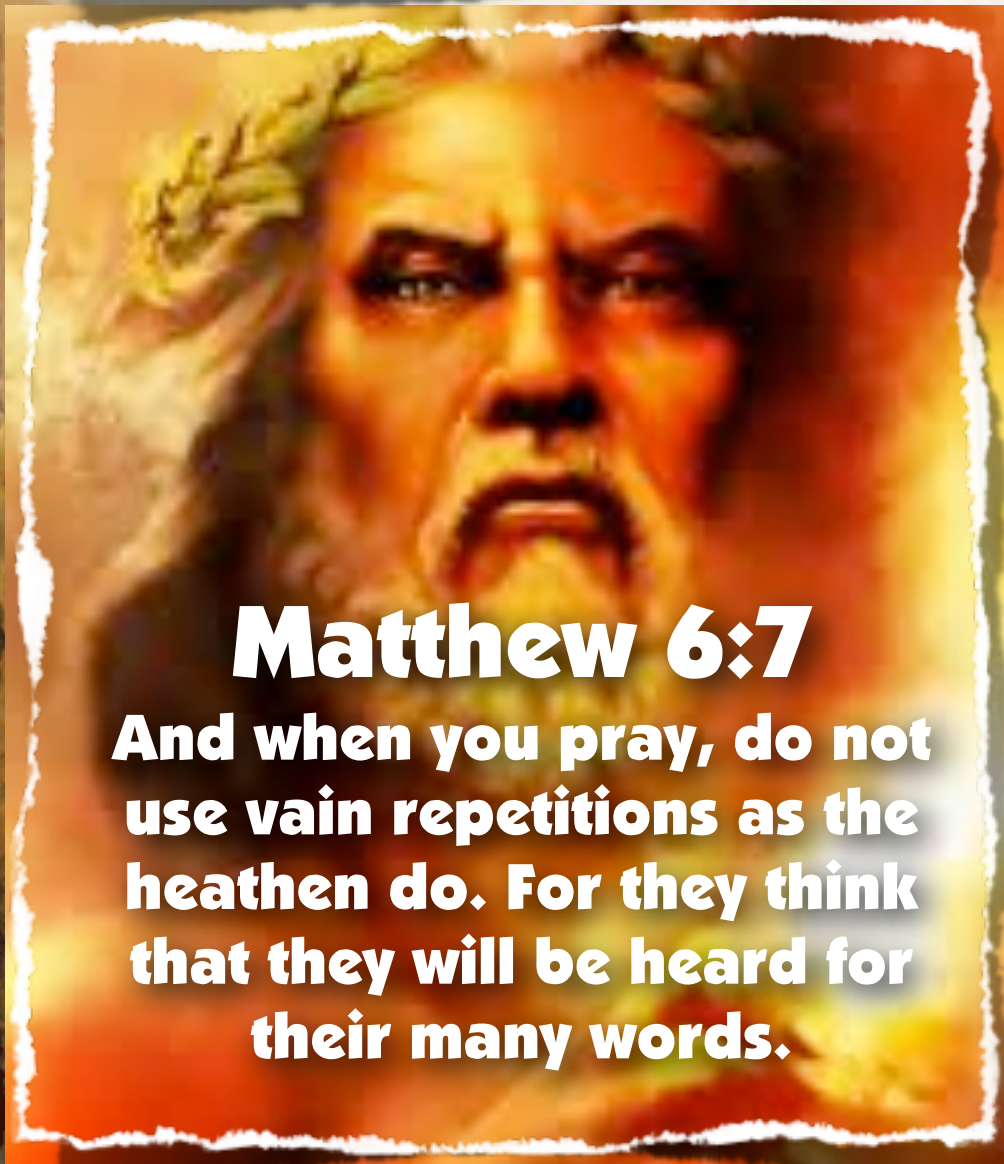
1 Kings 18:26-29 (NKJV)

²⁶ So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made.

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Matthew 6:7

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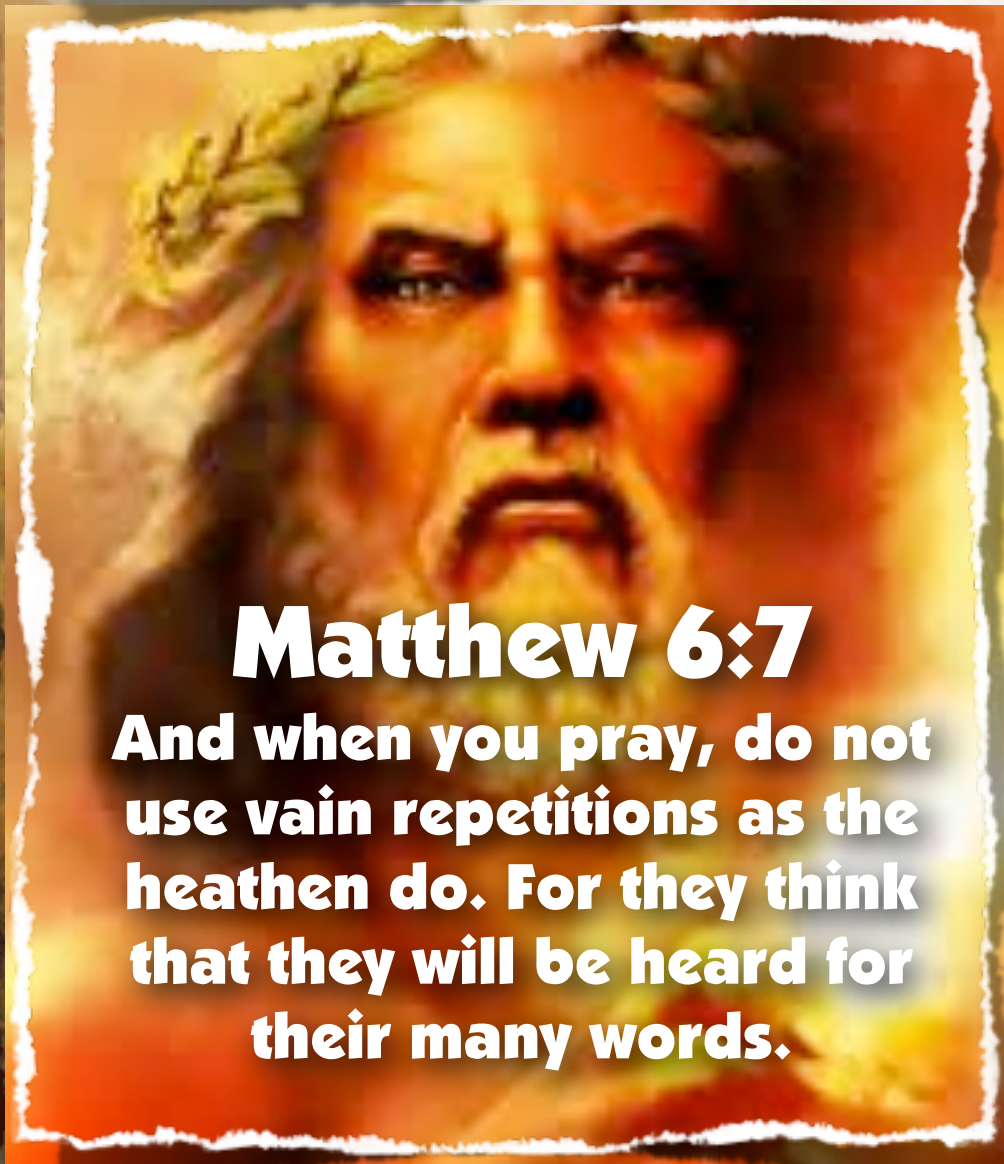
1 Kings 18:26-29 (NKJV)

²⁷ And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened."

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Don't Imitate The Pagan's - 7



Matthew 6:7

And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

1 Kings 18:26-29 (NKJV)

²⁸ So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. ²⁹ . . .

But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

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Don't Imitate The Pagan's - 7



Matthew 6:7

And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

◆ **Some Jews were guilty as well**

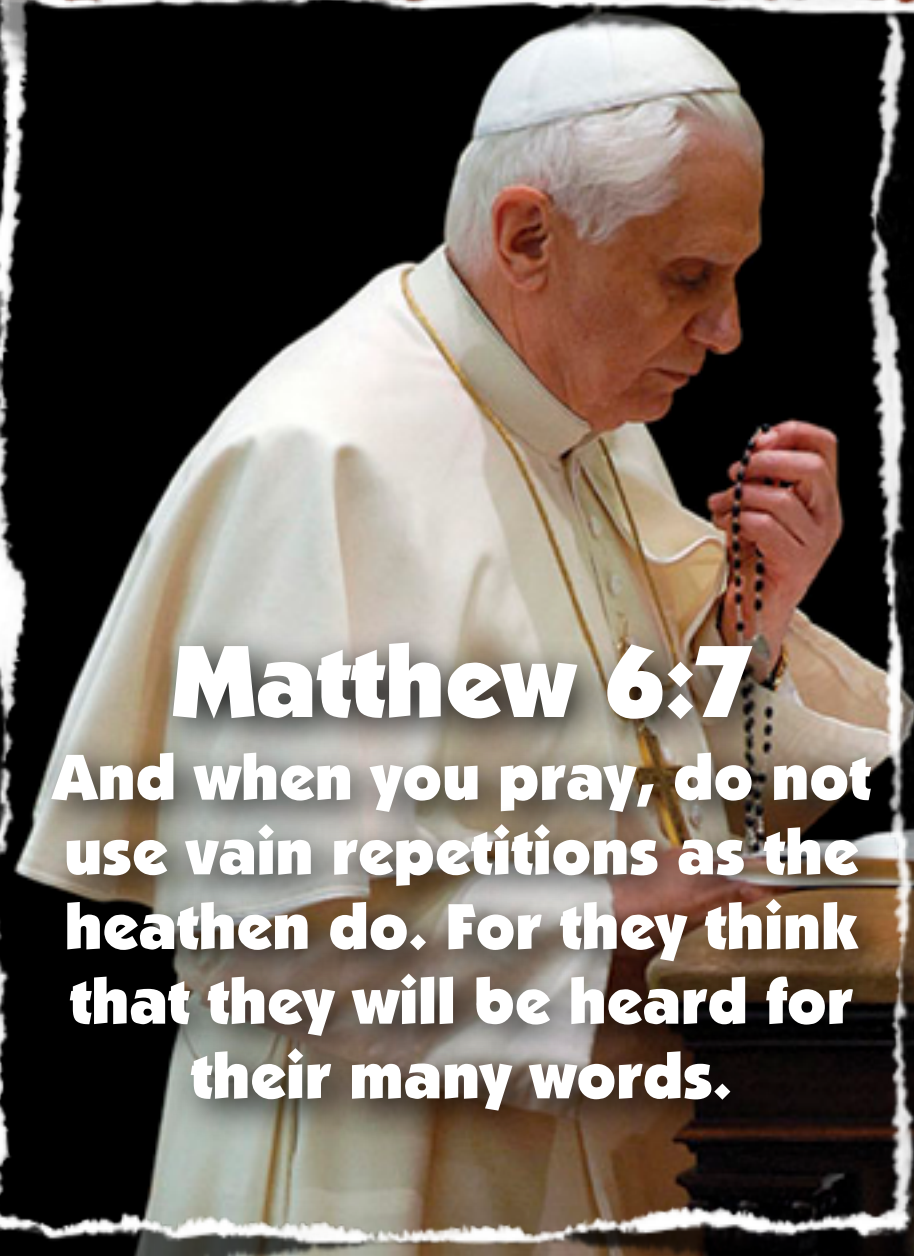
Mark 12:38-40

³⁸Then He said to them in His teaching,
“Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, *love* greetings in the marketplaces, ³⁹“the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, ⁴⁰“who devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation.”

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Don't Imitate The Pagan's - 7



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And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

"The heathen tried to tire out their gods with such endless prayers. Mere formulas were repeated over and over again; the Jews had such prayer formulas, Catholics also have them in the form of their rosary." (LENKSI)

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Our Father Knows What We Need - 8

Matthew 6:8

**Therefore do not be like them.
For your Father knows the
things you have need of
before you ask Him.**



◆ **The issue is not the length of our prayers - or repetition**

- ✳ Verses 9-13 contain 66 words
- ✳ Jesus' prayer in John 17 has about 600 words recorded –
- ✳ Jesus prayed ALL NIGHT –
Mat. 14:23-25
- ✳ Jesus repeated Himself as did Paul –
Mat. 26:39,42; Mark 14:39; 2 Cor 12:8

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◆ **God is not ignorant of our needs nor is He disinclined to provide them:**

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

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◆ **God is not ignorant of our needs nor is He disinclined to provide them:**

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV)

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

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◆ **God is not ignorant of our needs nor is He disinclined to provide them:**

1 Peter 5:6-7 (NKJV)

⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

(cf. Mat 7:9-11; Luke 11:9-13)

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**Therefore do not be like them.
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before you ask Him.**



- ◆ **Not that we should be LESS prayerful – but more-so:**
 - ✱ Removing fear, dread & uncertainty

Colossians 4:2 (NKJV)
Continue earnestly in
prayer, being vigilant in
it with thanksgiving;

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Our Father Knows What We Need - 8

Matthew 6:8

**Therefore do not be like them.
For your Father knows the
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before you ask Him.**



♦ **Not that we should be LESS
prayerful – but more-so:**

✳ Removing fear, dread & uncertainty

James 1:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

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◆ **Not that we should be LESS
prayerful – but more-so:**

✳ Removing fear, dread & uncertainty

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

Let us therefore come boldly to
the throne of grace, that we may
obtain mercy and find grace to
help in time of need.

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Our Father Knows What We Need - 8

Matthew 6:8

**Therefore do not be like them.
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before you ask Him.**



- ◆ **The prayer of faith enables God to do in our life that which he desires – James 1:5,6**
- ◆ **He is not limited to the content of our prayers – Ephesians 3:20**
- ◆ **He wants to give us that which is **TRULY** good for us – Matthew 7:9-11**

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The Godward Life & Prayer

"Pride & lack of faith Corrupts Worship"



Praise

Thanksgiving

Forgiveness

Petitions

**Prayer for
the
kingdom
citizen
should be
done**



Earnestly

Sincerely

Reverently

Confidently

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"Pride & lack of faith Corrupts Worship"



Praying

Singing

Preaching

Lords Supper

**Principles
apply to all
acts of
worship &
service**



Giving

Attendance

Bible Study

Service

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The Godward Life & Prayer

"Pride & lack of faith Corrupts Worship"

◆ **Could We Be Guilty?**

- ✱ By thinking how righteous we are because of "How often we pray?"
- ✱ By thinking how pious we are because of our "beautiful prayers?"
- ✱ By thinking that ritualistic worship will bring the admiration of God rather than true piety -



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The Godward Life & Prayer

"Pride & lack of faith Corrupts Worship"

Matthew 16:24-27 (NKJV)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶

For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

**Will you forfeit the eternal
for the temporary?**



The Sermon On The Mount

Charitable Deeds - "Pride Can Corrupt Acts of Love"

Charts by Don McClain

Prepared August 9-11 - 4, 2012

Preached August 12, 2012

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Prepared using PPT 2010

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Luke 18:9-14 (NKJV)

⁹ Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.'

Luke 18:9-14 (NKJV)

¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' ¹³ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."