

“When You Pray”

Matthew 6:5-8 Small Group Questions

- (1) Read Matthew 6:5-8. What is the main idea of this passage?
- (2) What do you think Jesus is after (what does He mean to happen) by including this in the Sermon?
- (3) In verse 5, how do we see Jesus assuming that His disciples are praying people?
 - (a) What is prayer?
 - (b) Why do Christians pray? (Any Scriptures that inform your answer?)
 - (c) How come prayer is often the most difficult and neglected spiritual discipline?
 - (d) What do you make of this quote from Martin Luther:
“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing”?
 - (e) How is your prayer life going?
- (4) What is hypocritical prayer (v 5)?
 - (a) How does Jesus describe it?
 - (b) How can we guard against it (v 6)?
 - (c) What are some practical ways we can guard from distractions and self-exaltation in prayer?
- (5) What is empty prayer (v 7)?
 - (a) How do you find yourself falling into empty, meaningless prayer?
 - (b) What truth about God does Jesus bring to bear on that kind of prayer?
 - (c) Why is “contemplative prayer” and other “prayer” that empties the mind (or that is wordless) not biblical prayer?
- (6) What do we see about prayer in these passages and how can we take heart as we grow in prayer?
Luke 18:1-8
Mark 1:35
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Ephesians 6:16-20