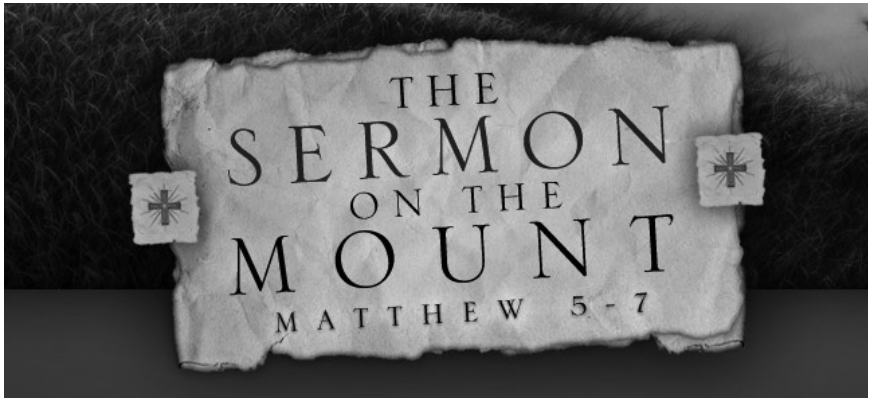

Sunday, July 11th, 2010 • Matthew 6:5-15

The Pharisees' practice of prayer had lost the spirit of worship. Jesus teaches a new way of praying in the "Lord's Prayer." This week we look at How to Pray With Sincerity!

Observation

What does the text say?

1. (6:5-6) In these verses, Jesus gives a negative "do not ..." and a positive "But when you pray...." Simply stated, what are the negative and positive commands in this pair?
2. (6:7-8) Here's another pair of positive and negative commands. Simply stated, what are the positive and negative commands in this pair?

Interpretation

What does the text mean?

1. (6:8) If God knows what you need before you ask him, why should you ask him at all? What sense does prayer really make? Are we mainly to talk for our own edification and encouragement? Why or why not?
2. (6:9b) What is the significance of Jesus teaching us to pray to God as "Our Father"? Why mention "who art in heaven"?
3. (6:9c) Look up the word "hallowed" in a dictionary. Why do you think Jesus includes the phrase "hallowed be Thy name" in this prayer? What does it MEAN for God's name to be hallowed? How is this significant?
4. (6:10) What are we really praying for when we utter the words "Thy kingdom come...."?
5. (6:10) Why is it important to include the attitude of vs. 10 in every prayer we pray? How does this attitude relate to the degree of our Christian maturity?
6. (6:11-13) These three petitions are for our own needs. What three areas of our needs do they cover?
7. (6:11) How often are we to ask for the food we need? Why should we do that if we have a regular job? Where else in chapter 6 do you see the ideas of "today" or "tomorrow" discussed? What attitude does this petition teach us?

Application

What Does It Mean to Me?

1. What lesson from your study of The Lord's Prayer stands out most in your mind today?
2. An "unforgiving disciple" is an oxymoron. In what area have you had the most trouble forgiving? What has helped you the most to move towards a forgiving heart?

Message Notes

Print out this outline and consider additional notes or questions from the message this Sunday.